

RUIDOSO NEWS

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Class Schedule!

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 2011 • OUR 65TH YEAR, NO. 63 • 75 CENTS

Report: Airport missed opportunities

Assessment shows possible criminal activity also investigated

Editors note: This is the second part of a three-part series about an investigation and assessment of operations at the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport in 2009 and corrective actions undertaken by Ruidoso village officials to clean up problem areas and put the municipal airport on the path to being self-supported financially. A third article dealing with auditor findings and other issues connected to the airport will run Wednesday.

DIANNE STALLINGS
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In early 2009, a police investigation and an operations assessment of Sierra Blanca Regional Airport uncovered some major deficiencies, possible criminal violations and missed economic development opportunities at the municipal facility on Airport Road.

The Ruidoso News obtained a copy of the final assessment

through an Inspection of Public Records Act request filed with the village of Ruidoso, and a copy of an initial draft was obtained from another source. The police investigation was forwarded to FBI and information regarding that probe was not available.

While police assigned by former Ruidoso Deputy Manager Barbara Fleming investigated possible theft and other allegations, former Deputy Manager Bill Morris said

he directed Randall Camp, then Ruidoso village public works director, and Special Projects Manager Justin King to plunge into the messy airport operations that included lack of fuel inventory tracking, lack of accountability for cash fuel sales, failure to update airplane hangar fees and lack of leadership that left employees to fend for themselves.

Camp with King, who was named interim airport manager

when a consultant overseeing the airport canceled his contract, immediately implemented tighter controls, took an inventory, set down a list of recommendations for the future, enumerated the problems encountered in trying to put together their assessment and laid out a path for future financial stability and the possibility of the airport becoming self-supporting. A

See **REPORT**, page 11A

Winter storm strikes

Meteorologist: Ruidoso could see eight to 10 inches of snow

JIM KALVELAGE
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A major winter storm was expected to drop more than a foot of snow in parts of the Sacramento Mountains beginning today.

In a Thursday synopsis, the National Weather Service reported the most intense snowfall of the storm will likely set up from the Sacramento Mountains to the northeast plains and adjacent highlands of New Mexico.

"We'll see the chances of snow increasing," National Weather Service meteorologist and warning coordinator Kerry Jones, said of the second half of today. "And especially as we go into Friday night. We do think the period Friday night through midday Saturday will be the prime time for accumulating snow in your neck of the woods. It could be three, four, perhaps even six hours of moderate to heavy at times snow."

The Sacramento Mountains to locations farther north were expected to be the snowstorm's target.

"If I were to draw kind of an area, you would be in the southern portion of that bulls-eye," Jones said. "And

See **WINTER**, page 9A

LIGHTS AND SIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS



HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Cousins Trinity Park, left, and Skylar Heltcel got a front-row seat on the Grindstone Stables sled for the first ride at Schoolhouse Park Thursday evening at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Mayor pro tem Rafael "Rifle" Salas led the countdown to throwing the switch, lighting the trees and signaling the start of the holiday music, sleigh rides and serving of hot chocolate and cookies by the Parks and Recreation Department. Mayor Ray Albom was out of town. Snowflakes began to flutter almost immediately after the lighting.

Trial delayed in case of murdered foster mom

HAROLD OAKES
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The trial of two teens accused of killing their foster mother has been delayed.

The trial of Alexis Shields and Desiree Linares was to have started Monday in District Court in Carrizozo. The District Attorney's office confirmed Thursday that it will not begin Monday and a new trial date has not been set.

Shields and Linares, both 15 years old, were arrested in Carlsbad June 9 and charged with murdering Evelyn Miranda, 53, and stealing her car, cell phone and laptop computer. A relative found Miranda dead in her San Patricio home with her hands and feet bound June 8.

District Judge Karen Parsons and Public Defenders James Walker and Gary Mitchell recused themselves from the case because of prior dealings with the teens.

District Judge William Brogan is scheduled to preside over the trial. Attorney Jesse R. Cosby, of Roswell, has been assigned to represent Linares, and Anna M. Aragon, of Las Vegas, N.M., was appointed to represent Shields.

Shields and Linares face a total of 97 years in prison, if convicted of the nine charges each faces.

District Attorney Diana Martwick,

See **TRIAL**, page 8A

Charges pursued in cold case

Skeletal remains found north of Ruidoso identified

CHRISTIN COYNE
Weatherford Democrat

Skeletal remains found in October 2002 north of Ruidoso were recently identified as the body of a Weatherford, Texas, man, Leve "Wayne" Dewayne Lee, reported missing in April 2002 after taking a trip to New Mexico.

His death was ruled a homicide and the cold case reopened in the last several weeks, according to law enforcement officials.

New Mexico investigators, assisted in the investigation by the Parker County (Texas) Sheriff's Office, have filed the case with a prosecuting attorney and are pursuing criminal charges on two suspects; investigators involved with the case reported Tuesday.

Reported missing

Lee, then 39 years old and a resident of Weatherford, was reported missing in early May 2002 to New Mexico State Police by his mother, Beatrice Walker, of Arkansas.

Lee, who lived with his common-law wife, Betty Ingle, and her grandson, had gone with the two to Ruidoso in late April 2002 to take the child to visit the

See **CASE** page 8A

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Enchilada dinner

The Rocks Boxing Club is hosting an enchilada dinner fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. today at the Ruidoso Downs First Southern Baptist Church.

For \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, attendees get enchiladas, desert and a drink.

The money raised will be used to fund the Rocks Boxing Club's annual trip to the state tournament where these young, local boxers will compete for a chance to advance to the regional Silver Gloves tournament in California. Two fighters will advance.

Alpine Village

The Alpine Village Water and Sanitation District will meet at 4 p.m. Dec. 5 in the District's building at 114 Alpine Meadows Trail.

The meeting will cover regular business for the District, such as paying bills and reporting on the operations of the water system. The agenda may contain discussion regarding committees to address the Conservation and a Drought Contingency Plan, Capacity Assessment and revising the Bylaws and Regulations.

All residents of the District are welcome to attend. Agendas are available at least 24 hours prior to meeting time.

Christmas hoedown

Members of the Carrizozo



ERIK BEARER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Santa's workshop filled with members of Students Against Destructive Decisions on Wednesday as the group sorted and wrapped presents for needy households at First Christian Church on Hull Road. The students make the trip every year, said Linda Tobkin, advisor for the group. Each family will receive a box of food and gifts for children. More than 350 families and more than 1,000 children will receive these gifts, thanks to the efforts of Santa's Helpers, said Stacey Miller, president of the Lincoln County branch of the organization. "We're 100 percent donation and 100 percent volunteer," Miller said. Dec. 9 is the last day for families to request aid, and the presents will be delivered Dec. 20, Miller said. For more information, to donate, or to request aid from Santa's Helpers, call (575) 258-2446, or stop by First Christian Church from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. **Back row, from left**, Daniel Marshall, Cade Patterson, Parker Johnson, Barbara Welch, Caroline Allen, Dana O'Doole, Tanner Wadaha, and Rocky Cordova; **middle row, from left**, Brooke Yaksik, Rinku Bhakta, Amanda Bryant, Kalen Freed, and Lea Zoller; **front row, from left**, Cyriana Enjady, A.J. Shackelford, Shadow Gilmore, Robyn Davis, SADD Advisor Linda Tobkin Gracie O'Brien, Catie Cory, Hannah Denney, and Kasha Saltz.

Woman's Club will be hosting their 22nd Annual Christmas Holiday Hoedown Dec. 3, at the clubhouse at 11th and D Avenue in Carrizozo.

The Hoedown will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 24 crafters selling everything

from handmade jewelry to books and artwork.

Something new this year will be a booth selling special children's clothing from Osh-Kosh. Verla Caster will be selling her hand-painted china ware and there will be a selection of homemade

baked goods from local bakers including Fran Mack and Carrie Scott.

Betty Matinez from Jemez will offer antique glassware and collectibles. Many items for sale will come from the Carrizozo Museum, including

books about the Southwest and Lincoln County in particular.

From noon until 1:30 p.m., the women of the club will be serving a full-course enchilada dinner, including a beverage and dessert, for \$7.50. Door prizes will be

awarded every half hour. No admission fee is charged and there is plenty of free parking.

Club members said the event is the perfect opportunity to do Christmas shopping from a selection of local

See **EVENTS**, page 3A



T-BONE TUESDAY

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LUNCH & DINNER

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AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

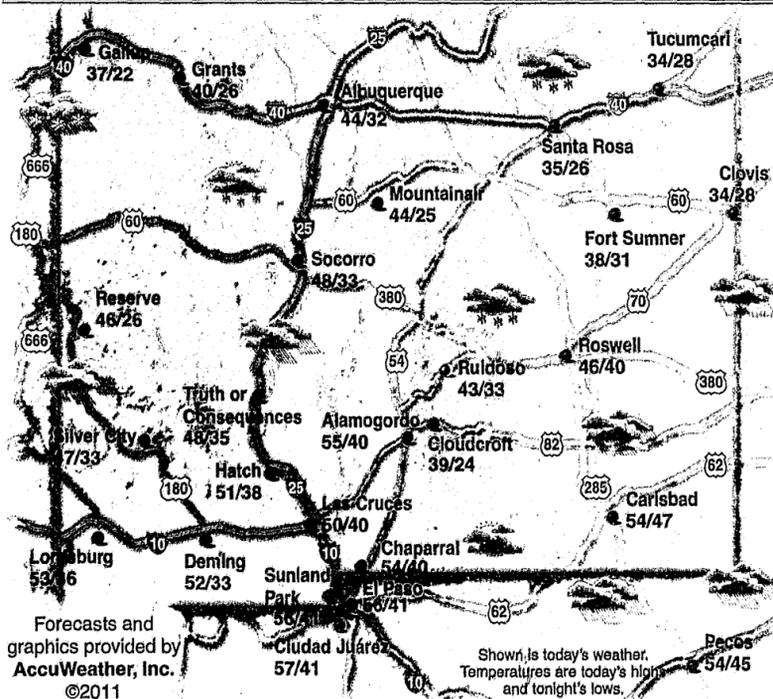
AccuWeather.com

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
RealFeel 42°	RealFeel 36°	RealFeel 36°	RealFeel 23°	RealFeel 39°	RealFeel 42°	RealFeel 53°
Humidity 64%	Humidity 65%	Humidity 57%	Humidity 60%	Humidity 45%	Humidity 40%	Humidity 35%
43° 33° Mostly cloudy	47° 20° Mostly cloudy, a shower; windy	37° 22° Mostly sunny and cold	33° 21° Windy with a snow shower possible	49° 30° Partly sunny and cold	48° 33° Plenty of sun	52° 22° Sunny
Wind: SSE 6-12 mph	Wind: SW 10-20 mph	Wind: WSW 6-12 mph	Wind: NE 12-25 mph	Wind: WSW 6-12 mph	Wind: WSW 10-20 mph	Wind: W 7-14 mph

RealFeel Temperature™ is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highs for the day.

Regional Cities

Almanac



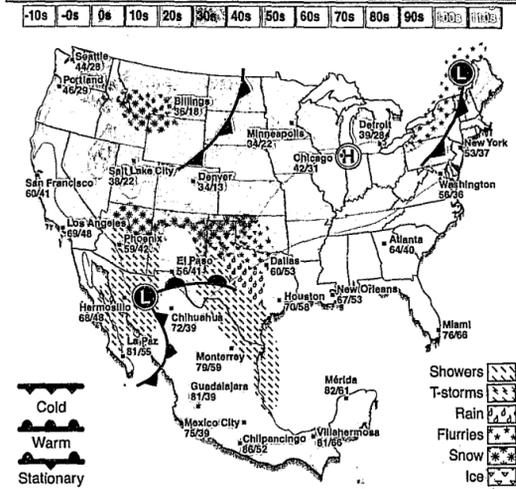
Ruidoso
Statistics through Wednesday
Temperature:
High/low 59°/32°
Normal high 51°
Normal low 23°
Record high 70° (2003)
Record low -11° (1976)
Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 0.13"
Normal month to date 0.70"
Year to date 8.50"
Normal year to date 20.28"

Pollen:
Grass Absent
Trees Low
Weeds Absent
Mold Low
Dominant Ascospores

Alamogordo
Statistics through Wednesday
Temperature:
High/low 61°/26°
Normal high 80°
Normal low 23°
Record high 73° (1950)
Record low 15° (2010)
Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 0.72"
Normal month to date 0.53"
Year to date 4.46"
Normal year to date 9.89"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: How does December rank in most of the U.S. in terms of coldness?
A: It is the third coldest month on

National Forecast for Dec. 2, 2011



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are for selected cities.

National Cities			Regional Cities		
City	Today H/L	Thu Sat W	City	Today H/L	Sat. W
Abilene	56/43/r	64/29/r	Albuquerque	44/32/c	39/22/sf
Anchorage	34/27/sf	35/29/sn	Artesia	54/47/c	54/36/c
Atlanta	64/40/pc	60/43/s	Chama	37/18/pc	37/12/sf
Austin	66/58/c	71/45/pc	Clayton	34/21/c	34/10/sn
Baltimore	54/32/s	52/34/c	Cloudcroft	39/24/c	36/6/sn
Boston	51/34/s	42/38/c	Farmington	40/27/c	37/17/sf
Chicago	42/31/pc	46/34/c	Hobbs	43/34/c	53/18/r
Dallas	60/53/c	47/35/r	Los Alamos	36/21/pc	34/11/sn
Denver	34/13/s	20/16/sn	Portales	38/28/sn	47/15/c
Des Moines	36/34/s	37/16/r	Flaton	36/21/c	28/4/sn
Detroit	39/28/sf	45/38/pc	Red River	32/13/pc	33/6/sn
El Paso	56/41/c	54/32/pc	Ruidoso	43/33/c	47/20/c
Las Vegas	54/41/pc	54/41/pc	Santa Fe	38/24/c	37/15/sn
Los Angeles	69/48/pc	66/48/pc	Silver City	47/33/sh	47/24/c
Minneapolis	34/22/s	34/16/sn	Taos	38/18/pc	31/8/sn
New Orleans	67/53/s	74/61/s			
New York City	53/37/s	48/40/s			
Philadelphia	54/34/c	49/36/s			
Phoenix	59/42/c	60/40/pc			
Reno	45/22/s	38/17/s			
San Francisco	60/41/s	61/41/s			
San Diego	64/49/pc	63/45/pc			
Seattle	44/28/s	44/28/pc			
Tucson	56/37/c	58/37/pc			
Tulsa, OK	48/43/c	59/28/sh			
Wash., DC	56/36/s	50/37/r			
Wichita	38/35/c	45/18/r			
Yuma	63/42/pc	63/44/pc			

Sun and Moon

Moon Phases

Friday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:48 a.m./4:56 p.m.
Friday: Moonrise/Moonset 12:16 p.m./none

First Full Last New
Dec 2 Dec 10 Dec 17 Dec 24

Extremes

Wednesday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 82° in Borrego Springs, CA
Low: 2° in Orr, MN

Wednesday's World High/Low:
High: 109° in Fitzroy Crossing, Australia
Low: -61° in Summit Station, Greenland

EVENTS

FROM PAGE 2A

handicrafts that will make unique and special gifts for everyone on your Christmas list.

The annual event also is a chance to see the interior of the clubhouse, an adobe building constructed in 1929, which was painstakingly restored by the members of the club.

It appears on both the New Mexico and the United States Registers of Historic Buildings.

The interior ceilings feature huge pine vigas and restored wood floors.

The "Round Room" has the only wagon wheel viga ceiling in New Mexico.

Church concert

The award-winning group the Blackwood Legacy will be presenting a special concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at Ruidoso Downs Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Admission is free.

Built on the legendary music of the Grammy and Dove award winning group, Blackwood Brothers Quartet, Rick Price and Chris Blackwood formed the Blackwood Legacy as a tribute to them.

The Blackwood Legacy was recently signed to Mansion Records, and will be soon releasing their first album under the new label.

The Ruidoso Down Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 202 Parkway, Ruidoso. For more information, please contact the church at (575) 378-4161.

Medical meeting

Jennifer Stewart, licensed practical nurse and area manager of Encompass Home Health, will speak about medical services in the home during the Dec. 6 meeting of Huff n Puff, a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease support group serving the counties of Lincoln and Otero.

The program runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Alamogordo

Senior Center.

A pulmonary therapist from Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center will be there, as will local home care representatives.

Family, care givers and guests are welcome. For more information on meetings and schedules, call the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Department at 575-443-2746.

DUI meeting

The regular meeting of the DUI Planning Council is scheduled at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

The meeting will be held at the Sheriff's Substation (next to the Library), Kansas City Road, Ruidoso.

Choir concert

The Ruidoso High and Middle School choirs, under the direction of Jeff Owens, will present their Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Spencer Theater near Alto. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Middle School will open the concert with "Season of Celebration," "The Holly and The Ivy," "Harmony" (an adaptation of Pachelbel's Canon in D), and "Northern Lights," a song about the Aurora Borealis. A visual feast will be presented on this tune, with black lights and fluorescent gloves.

The High School will begin their segment with a cappella spiritual, "Shut De Do," followed by a multicultural selection, "Can You Hear?" by Jim Papoulis (accompanied by Marilyn Orr on piano, and students playing bass guitar, and djembe drums). They will close with the "Ukrainian Bell Carol."

The RHS Vocal Jazz ensemble will present Vince Giraldi's "Christmas Time is Here," made famous in Charlie Brown's Christmas Special.

The concert will close

A GOOD CAUSE



Georgia Underwood, president of the Ruidoso Rotary Club, presents Tim Coughlin, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Blanca a check for \$500 towards the opening of the Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Blanca.

as the High School and Middle School combine for a carol sing-a-long: "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night," "O Christmas Tree" (sung in Spanish and German), and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Common Ground

Common Ground will try to raise \$4,000 through its closing sale from 10 a.m. through 7 p.m. Dec. 16 through 20.

Items on sale will include furniture, electronics, instruments, clothing, gaming tables, collectibles, and much more.

Stop by Common Ground in the Sierra Mall or call (575) 937-2725 for more information.

Plant meeting

A meeting to review with the public the reasons for construction of the new \$36 million Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and the resulting benefits is set for 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 14 at the Ruidoso Convention Center on Sierra Blanca Drive.

Members of the Joint Use Board that governs the plant and who represent the city of Ruidoso Down and the village of Ruidoso, urge residents to attend to hear about the results and about the challenges of meeting the strict limits assigned to future discharges into the Rio Ruidoso.

Dr. David Stensel, a professional environmental engineer from the University

of Washington and Jim Good from Parametrix, an environmental consulting firm, will give presentations. Stensel will focus on recent relevant research on biological nutrient removal, as it would apply to the new plant and to the Environmental Protection Agency's current operational permit.

Good will speak about his ongoing data collection on the Rio Ruidoso, both upstream and downstream of the new plant. In addition, an opportunity will be offered to tour the new plant and the sampling points along the Rio Ruidoso beginning at 1 p.m.

The research and collection of data were performed in order to comply with Ruidoso's Settlement Agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department dealing with the quality of water in the river, and to gather enough information for Ruidoso to file a petition with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to amend future discharge limits. The petition will rely on data collected from the Rio Ruidoso to show that greatly reduced discharges of nitrogen from the new Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant are low enough to protect river water quality and that an extensive and expensive expansion of the new plant to further reduce nitrogen levels would not be sci-

entifically justified.

Women's group

Women Helping Women is a support group for domestic violence victims and survivors. The group meets every Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. at Sweet Charity, 26156 U.S. Highway 70.

The group offers support, resource referral and information about children's issues and problems.

Library programs

December in the Children's Library at the Ruidoso Public Library:

Preschool story time Wednesdays at 10:30 -

Dec. 7, Christmas stories. Craft: Button ornament

Dec. 14, Mountain Country Christmas Brunch. Horse and carriage rides after brunch. Reservations are required by Dec. 8.

Dec. 21, Christmas Movie: Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer (popcorn and juice box served).

Dec. 28, Movie: Frosty the Snowman (popcorn and juice box served).

Families are invited to make mountain country themed Christmas wreaths. Wreaths will be displayed in the library and everyone wins a prize for participating. Bring in wreaths by Dec. 13, for the library's open house on Dec. 14.

WINTER NIGHTS

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- In county 3 months \$20 6 months \$26 1 year \$40
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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Mlodecki, general manager and regional publisher
Terrance Vestal, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, New Mexico

OUR OPINION

Sonic booms: Raptor training remains vital

There is a price for freedom, and that price is paid by different people in different ways.

Some serve in the military, and some who serve are killed or wounded.

Americans support the fight for freedom through their taxes.

Locally, and on an arguably more trivial level, some people on U.S. 54 might have to wait for military vehicles to cross the road. Some people might be delayed on U.S. 70 during a missile firing at White Sands Missile Range.

And some people experience sonic booms as the Air Force pilots stationed at Holloman Air Force Base train to protect the freedoms we all hold so dear.

Some people in the Las Cruces area have been complaining about the sonic booms generated when F22 Raptors from Holloman break the sound barrier.

Complaints have ranged from the noise frightening dogs and fish to causing damage to homes.

Training flights are conducted both day and night.

Other than by supposition and assumption, the link between sonic booms and structural damage is difficult to establish. People assuming that sonic booms cause the damage should first look at other potential problems, such as settling.

And it's not as if the Air Force is unconcerned about the effects of the training process. 2nd Lt. Logan Clark, with the Holloman AFB Public Affairs Office, said, "As part of our reconstitution of the F22s, and to meet requirements set by the Secretary of Defense, we will be conducting some night flying operations."

"We will continue to make

every effort to balance the requirements of our training and help reduce the impact of that training on our neighboring communities."

The training schedule is posted on the base's website, www.holloman.af.mil.

If you think you have a valid reason for doing so, the website notes that a noise complaint can be filed by contacting the 49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at (575) 572-5406. You can also call (575) 572-7383 during regular business hours. After hours call (575) 572-7575.

But the training that produces the sonic booms is absolutely necessary and must continue.

Pilots must train under the most realistic conditions possible so that they are well-prepared for whatever combat situation they might encounter in protecting our freedom and defending this country.

Training by limping along at subsonic speeds so people won't be startled is hardly adequate preparation for the high-speed maneuvering they will almost certainly find in combat.

Rest assured that whatever enemy our pilots are up against will have trained without too much regard for an allegedly cracked wall or some traumatized goldfish. And potential enemies won't limit their training to daylight hours.

The training these pilots receive in this locale might well save their lives and save a battle. To put it mildly, it's in the best interests of the pilots, the country and even those who complain about the noise that the pilots receive the absolute best, most realistic training possible.

Sonic booms may be startling and even bothersome. But they are the sound of freedom.



YOUR OPINION

Illegal immigration still is illegal

To the editor:

Re.: Hal Rhodes - Then misadventures of illegal immigrant Bashers.

Your editor's note attached to my letter (Nov. 23) is well taken. If, in fact, I was hasty in accepting the data attributed to the L. A. Times without fact checking, I stand corrected and am ready to apologize.

That said, I stand by everything I wrote outside said data. Illegal immigration remains unlawful and presents serious problems to the country's dire financial situation, as well as to its security. But most of all it remains illegal. No other country I know of will allow the relatively unchecked influx of people from another country without proper permission and legal documents — least of all the country of Mexico. America has always welcomed immigrants — this writer being one of them — as long as they have gone through the proper channels. That, in simple terms, is the proper way.

*E. D. Ehrlich
Nogal*

Common Ground

To the editor:

Thanks so much to those of you who have supported Common Ground Community Center (CG) during 2011 as it has been a pleasure building community in Ruidoso.

Unfortunately, although it has been fun, it is time to say goodbye to this adventure as it has not been supported to the degree required to make such an opportunity work.

As of Jan. 1 we will be closing our doors and hope that we

will find other venues for promoting "Common Ground" as common ground is a anyplace that people choose to gather for friendship, family and community of all ages.

It is where we live by the standard that we are all extraordinary, promoting equality and cooperation while appreciating and tolerating our differences.

It is anyplace we gather to take care of our health and our environment; being examples for our children and grandchildren by not only saying it, but living it.

Common Ground is anyplace where we unite in a system of values found in all religions, a system of love, of brother and sisterhood, and culture, promoting a peaceful, joyful, world.

As we say goodbye to the physical location of CG we would like to share appreciation for those that contributed to the opportunities we encountered this year! First off, thank you to the instructors that shared their gifts and talents by contributing to the creative development of our community. These people include dance instructors Janice Holt, James Polk, Paul O'Laughlin and Natasha Nichols, music instructor Lou Ann Ellison and organizer Ray Poston. Thanks to Paul Adamian for encouraging theatre and Phillip David Collins for promoting local filmmaking.

A round of applause goes out to those that lent a hand with our media such as James Polk, Rich Beer, Phillip David Collins, Dick Webber, Carol Manchester-Brown, MTD

Radio, the Ruidoso News and Postal Annex.

Thanks to the Love-Revolution Belly Dancers Janice Holt, Kay Kullman, Shawn Lott, Kelly Parish, Teresa Montes and Cynthia Trujillo, for adding love and color to our community events.

Thanks to community groups that considered CG a resource, creating mutually beneficial partnerships including Big Brothers/Big Sister of LC, Casa Alegre, NM-Oath, the Lincoln County Community Health Council, The Billy Shakespeare Project, Peace Village, The village of Ruidoso, Parks and Recreation, Keep Ruidoso Beautiful, ENMU, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Also thanks to Prudential Lynch Realty and our neighbors: Children's Dental Clinic, Windstream and El Paraiso in the Sierra Mall for tolerating our sometimes very loud creative abilities.

And finally, thanks to the individuals that have contributed to our pleasant experiences including Thomas Radcliffe, Bo Lacy, Ray Vowel, Corey Bard, Eric Gile and Angie Fernandez, Bill and Barbara Dement, Cecil Kennan, Kenny Matthews, Ramona Lujan and our wonderful dance family that faithfully supported CG and the joy of learning.

May we (the residents of this fine county) continue to find Common Ground in 2012, under each step we take!

Peace, love and blessing for the New Year!

Sincerely,

*Common Ground
Ruidoso*

OUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

THE STREETER, BY ERIK BEARER

Q: What are your plans for the Festival of Lights?



Diana Vicars
Ruidoso

"My sister will be coming into town, so I'll see what she'd like to do."



Melanie Sanchez
Ruidoso

"I don't know if I'm going this year, I've been there for the past 20 years."



Patricia Bellow
Ruidoso

"I might be snowed in. But if I'm not, I'll be there for sure."



James Matisse
Tularosa

"I'll be working, as always. We'll be taking care of hungry festival-goers."



Steven Boerger
Ruidoso

"I'm going to go out and watch the parade go by with my wife and stepson."

Local honored with auspicious military recognition

LYNDA SANCHEZ
Special to the Ruidoso News

A surprised Millie Woods was the recent recipient of a special honor conferred upon her by the Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bliss.

The Honorable Order of Molly Pitcher is presented to women who have "been found to exemplify the spirit of sacrifice and devotion" that Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher exhibited during the trying years of Revolution.

Woods was supposed to stop at a function at Holloman Air Force Base, but was urged by several officers to attend the recent celebrations at Fort Bliss. She wasn't aware of the real reason until they called her forward for the presentation, honoring her years of work with Military Appreciation Week and other military functions that help support the morale of the men and women in uniform.

History

The award is given to women who show bravery, and exhibit uncommon valor and or devotion in defending and assisting U.S. troops. The story/legend of Molly Pitcher is one of loyalty and bravery above and beyond, and begins during the battle of Monmouth.

An artillery wife, Mary Hays McCauly, better known as Molly Pitcher, shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her husband, William Hays.

Her actions during the battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, became leg-

endary. During that battle both men and cannon were burning up with heat and exhaustion.

Across the bullet-swept field, Mary Hays McCauly realized she had to get water to the men. She lugged pitcher after pitcher of cool water to the men and they began to refer to her as "Molly Pitcher."

She also cared for the wounded and when she found that her own husband had fallen by the cannon, she stepped up and volunteered to man the gun. For the second time on an American battlefield, a woman manned a cannon and she stayed at her post in the face of heavy enemy fire.

To reward her heroism, Gen. George Washington honored her and today at Carlisle, Penn., near her gravesite is a statue that commemorates her courage and honor.

The Order of Molly Pitcher award recognizes those who have voluntarily contributed in significant ways to the Field Artillery community.

Dedication

Millie Woods fits that description and she expanded that field to include all military families, soldiers and divisions.

More than 10 years of giving honor and tribute to those in the United States Armed Forces, and her mantra, "First time's a handshake; second time's a HUG," was acknowledged during the Fort Bliss Saint Barbara's Day Ball, as well as her eight years with Festival of Lights.

Woods made sure there



Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense/Army Forces Strategic Command and Joint Functional Component Command-Integrated Missile Defense, places the red ribbon and gold disk of The Honorable Order of Molly Pitcher around Millie Wood's neck. Gen. John Rossi is standing behind him.

was military representation in every Electric Light Parade in Ruidoso. Having the Holloman Air Force Base's 49th Fighter Wing vice commander as the grand marshal of the 2007 Festival of Lights Parade, and after learning of the retirement of the F-117 Nighthawk, Millie founded the MAW organization and featured the last public flight of that F-117 Nighthawk at MAW 2008.

Command Sergeant Major James Ross, who submitted Woods' name for consideration, is in missile warfare.

He is the commander of air defense units throughout the world, and is constantly traveling to Egypt,

Qatar, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq among other locations. At present he is stationed at Fort Bliss.

Appreciation

The certificate signed by Col. Daniel Karbler, commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla., acknowledges that Woods exemplifies the spirit of sacrifice and devotion and was "initiated into the solemn mysteries of the traditional sisterhood whose voluntary contributions perpetuate the essence and significance of Molly Pitcher."

"Be it further understood that we hereby confer upon

her this certificate and enjoin all air defenders henceforth to show her due honor and respect whenever she may enter our midst."

Woods said later that she took the liberty of adding a few others who deserve to be thanked, such as George Mendoza and MAW Committee members, Ruidoso village lodgers, business owners and individuals, "who made this award possible by extending hospitality and opening arms to embrace our troops."

She said that on Dec. 12 an organizational meeting is scheduled in Albuquerque about establishing a Military Appreciation Week in that greater metropolitan

area. Attending will be representatives from the offices of Mayor Richard Berry, the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, the Albuquerque Lodgers Tax Committee, the Albuquerque Tourism director, president of New Mexico Museum of Military History, the president of Museum of the American Military Family, New Mexico secretary of Veterans Services, the New Mexico National Guard and the Bataan Museum, the dean of the New Mexico Military Institute, the lieutenant governor, U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce (R-New Mexico), Employer Services Guard and Reserve and Kirtland Air Force.

Some residents, contractor illegally dumping 'green waste'

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Residents in unincorporated areas of Lincoln County served by Greentree Solid Waste are limited to collection and disposal of 12 cubic yards of green waste per year, said Operational Supervisor Debra Ingle.

Unfortunately, individuals and some contractors working on removing trees and underbrush from lots recently dumped slash in the road right of way, clogging ditches and interfering with drainage, she told county commissioners at their meeting last month.

In response to a request from Commissioner Mark Doth to explain the level of service residents outside of towns are entitled to, Ingle explained that Greentree, formerly the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority, turned its attention to green waste after the Kokopelli Fire in March 2002 that destroyed 29 structures.

Members of the Authority, composed of the county and several of its municipalities, recognized a need for a service to haul away slash resulting from people trying to create firebreaks around their homes.

"To create a 75-foot fire break, we figured 12 cubic yards to 15 cubic yards of material would be generated and a \$1.25 a month was included on the bill as more of a courtesy," Ingle said. "It had

nothing to do with thinning or forest slash." The thinning projects, often cost-sharing programs between private landowners and the state Forestry's Capitan District, are designed to reduce the number of trees in an area and remove ladder fuel for wildfires that could carry flames into the crowns of trees. The projects generate enormous amounts of green waste.

Private contractors

But it didn't take long before residents and contractors "were putting everything out there," Ingle said.

"We only provide 12 cubic yards a year," she said. "Anything above that should be through private enterprise. There are people looking for work. There are three places, all private, where you can dispose of the material. We don't want to take away from private industry."

When a contractor was spotted last month emptying dump trucks full of green waste on a county right of way, the sheriff was alerted and the company was cited.

"The sheriff shut down the job," Ingle said. Right after that, three more contractors were caught illegally dumping, she said. Work on more than a half dozen property thinning projects around Alpine Village and Ranches of Sonterra was halted

when a preliminary investigation revealed some forest thinning contractors were cutting trees on private property and charging the landowner for disposal that never properly occurred. The material was either to be chipped on the property or be hauled to one of the available businesses that would use it to create compost.

"Fifty cubic yards of (green) waste was dumped in the county right of way," Ingle said. "It is not our responsibility, but we eventually will have to pick it up and that will be expensive. I thought it was time people were reminded their service is limited to 12 yards a year." Any amount of green waste above that should be handled through a private contractor for disposal, she said.

The situation was thoroughly discussed with state forestry officials, "and they know we don't take (slash from thinning jobs) at all. It's the contractor's business. We are not part of the cost-share program. We were never brought into that. How they figure the cost of disposal is up to them. We can give an estimate, but the material either should be chipped back on to the property or a contractor should show the owners a receipt where they disposed of the material before they are paid. Putting it on county road right of way is not the way."

The three private companies

that accept green waste named by Ingle are all east of Ruidoso Downs, beginning with Sierra Contracting, Bio-Grind Inc. and White Mountain Composting.

Greentree logs and tracks where it picks up all types of waste, she said.

"Anything over 12 yards they have to pay for, but it is just a burden to us to bill them. We prefer to leave it to the contractors. We'll help with the firebreaks (around homes), which is not a whole lot. It's more of a courtesy."

Different in Ruidoso

Doth said the situation is different in the village of Ruidoso where residents "pay dearly for that privilege" of having yard slash collected by the village solid waste department at their properties for disposal.

People become confused about where the lines are drawn, especially those people within what is called the extraterritorial zone around Ruidoso and in pockets of unincorporated areas inside the village such as along some sections of Carrizozo Canyon and Gavilan Canyon, Ingle said. If an owner receives a bill from Greentree, then he falls within the 12 cubic yard limit.

"Call and we'll tell you the rules," she said. "We work with (Jeff Kaplan of the Ruidoso Solid Waste Department) on this. There is only so much in our bud-

get and we don't want to come back and say we have to have a rate increase (if relief doesn't arrive from illegal dumping). We don't want that. I promise you, we will work out something. We will get service to everybody."

If slash lying in rights of way become contaminated with other debris and trash, it cannot be used for compost and then must be hauled south of Alamogordo to the regional landfill, an expensive alternative, she said.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter, who represents the county on the Greentree authority board, said she appreciates citizens who take it on themselves to help by picking up trash around a dumpster, gathering old tires or cleaning up a neighborhood.

Commissioner Tom Battin said a group cleaning along the highway in front of Ranches of Sonterra ran into some problems with disposal of the bags of trash and were told not to take them to Greentree's compactor.

"That's correct," Ingle said, "That doesn't go into our (residential) compactor."

"The state Department of Transportation wants to pick it up because it wants to keep track of the tons of trash collected," Minter said. The measurement helps pump up annual grants to keep the highways in the state clean. For more information, call Greentree at 575-378-4697, ext. 23.

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BUSINESS

County unemployment rates lower than national

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Fewer people were employed in Lincoln County last month than in September when the jobless rate was 4.8 percent. But October's preliminary unemployment rate of 5.1 percent was far better than the 6.5 percent level a year earlier.

Numbers released Monday by the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions showed 724 people, out of the county's labor force of 11,117, were without a job in October 2010.

Last month, 545 were unemployed out of a labor pool of 10,754. Lincoln County's labor force during the previous 12 months diminished by 363 people, a decline of 3.2 per-

cent. The drop was larger than the statewide decline of 2 percent of the workforce.

Reductions in the labor force have been attributed to those giving up on finding a job or returning to school to pursue a new career.

In Otero County, the labor pool in October was 2.2 percent less than October 2010.

Only four New Mexico counties, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo and Lea, saw a rise in the labor force.

New Mexico's overall seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in October, unchanged from September, but down from 8.6 percent a year ago.

The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing October 2011 with October 2010, was 0.6 percent, representing a statewide increase of 5,000 jobs. It was the

fifth straight month of over-the-year job growth following a 32-month period of losses.

From peak to trough, New Mexico lost almost 53,000 jobs from the effects of the recession. October 2011 data from the Department of Workforce Solutions indicated the state has regained about 9,000 jobs.

The largest number of new jobs has come in the education and health services industries than any others. The two fast growing employment sectors added 6,900 jobs, growing 5.7 percent over the past year. Retail trade has made inroads as well.

But construction continued to decline with 4,100 fewer jobs in New Mexico over the past 12 months. Government employment also registered a loss, down 4,500 jobs from a year ago.

Contracting classes offered for businesses

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Not all government purchases involve multi-million dollar contracts with Boeing-sized businesses.

Government agencies contract for janitorial services, office supplies and much more, and the government recently has been offering incentives to do its contracting with smaller-sized companies.

To help local businesses cash in on these opportunities, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center's Procurement Technical Assistance Program will offer a Contracting 101 Workshop in Roswell from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

The workshop will provide an introduction to government contracting and will answer questions such as "What do I need to be contract ready?" "How do I get certified to do business with government?" and "What other

resources are available to help a business learn and benefit from government contracting?"

The Contracting 101 Workshop is designed especially for businesses that want to do business with government but don't know how to get started.

The workshop will be presented by Jonnie Loadwick, procurement advisor with the Procurement Technical Assistance Program's office in the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments.

For more information and reservations, contact Carolyn Arias at the Small Business Development Center at (575) 624-7133 or Pansy Moffitt at the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District office at (575) 625-6131.

The \$29 fee may be paid by check at the door or by credit card by calling the program office in Santa Fe at (505) 428-1695.

SWISS BAR & GRILL



COURTESY

Welcomed by the Ruidoso Valley Greeters, Swiss Grill and Lounge general manager Ken Berry earlier this month had the new restaurant dedicated. The eclectic café, which includes a full bar, is located at the Swiss Chalet Inn, 1451 Sudderth Drive.

Local company offers new application Legislature to look at unemployment fund

A Nogal company that earlier this year launched a new iPhone application, considered a technological breakthrough for speech therapy, has released a new eBook reader application.

Pocket Lexi, which is part of a fully developed eBook publishing platform, offers a

creative and full-featured approach to language development. Pocket Lexi is a free application and has one free eBook embedded to demonstrate its full range of features.

"Pocket Lexi is the result of many months of research and development," said

Corey Walker, a practicing speech language pathologist and president of Synapse Apps, the parent company of Pocket SLP and Pocket Lexi. "It has the unique ability to provide engaging, educational entertainment and at the same time detailed quantitative measurement of a child's language skills."

A free demonstration may be downloaded from the eBook app store, including a free book.

- From reports

Legislature to look at unemployment fund

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A proposal to address the solvency of the public educator's retirement fund in New Mexico will be advanced to the state Legislature.

The Education Retirement Board, during a special meeting last week, adopted a plan that would reduce the cost of living adjustment by 12.5 percent for all current and future retirees. The board also recommended a

minimum retirement age of 55 for members who would not be eligible to retire within 10 years of the plan's adoption. Another solvency plan for the state's unemployment insurance trust fund may be in the future.

Gov. Susana Martinez signed an executive order to activate an advisory council to assemble policies to ensure the long-term stability and solvency of the unemployment fund, which may become insolvent by 2013.

"A sound unemployment insurance fund should be operated with two long-term goals in mind," Martinez said. "To provide adequately for those who lose a job through no fault of their own and to keep contribution rates by businesses stable and predictable over time."

The advisory council was created by law in 1959, but has been inactive for about 30 years. The setting of contribution rates has been a part of the Legislature.

NOTICIA AL PÚBLICO

La Ciudad de Ruidoso Downs, Nuevo Mexico, desea anunciar sobre las juntas publicas para informar a los interesados en el proceso de solicitud del program de CDBG del año 2012. Las juntas serán:

- November 28, 2011
City Hall Council Chambers 4:30 p.m. 123 Downs Dr. Ruidoso Downs, NM
- December 12, 2011
City Hall Council Chambers 4:30 p.m. 123 Downs Dr. Ruidoso Downs, NM
- December 19, 2011
City Hall Council Chambers 4:30 p.m. 123 Downs Dr. Ruidoso Downs, NM

Esta juntas considerará propuestas de proyectos para aplicación de 2012 fondos del Community Development Block grant (CDBG). El estado de Nuevo Mexico ha recibido fondos en la cantidad de \$14,000,000.

El programa de Community Development Block Grant fue establecido en 1974 bajo el Title I/Housing & Community Development Act para asistir 1) a comunidades y a residentes de pocos o moderados recursos, 2) ayudar a eliminar barrios bajos, sucios y manchados 3) y tambien estos fondos se pueden usar an condiciones de emergencia que pongan en peligro inmediato a la salud y bienestar de la gente.

El programa esta administrado por el estado de Nuevo Mexico, Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division. El público esta invitado a hacer presentaciones, peticiones y recomendaciones al consejo acerca de los proyectos que se quieren aplicar para el proximo ciclo de CDBG fondos. El maximo total por cada aplicacion es \$500,000, excepto aplicaciones en la categoria de un plan de proyecto que tienen limite fijo de \$50,000.

Si usted o su organizacion tienen un proyecto que pueda ser elegible para reconsideración, usted esta invitado a hacer su presentación y petición en esta reunión pública. Para los residentes que no hablan ingles, y requieran un interprete, contacten a la oficina de administración, Una semana antes de la reunion (575) 378-4422.

Para la gente que no puede atender la reunión pública, sus comentarios se recibirán el la siguiente dirección:

CDBG Grant Program Requests
Carol Virden
City of Ruidoso Downs
P.O. Box 348
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
(575) 378-4422

NOTICE TO LINCOLN COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENT DATE

LINCOLN COUNTY TREASURER reminds Lincoln County property owners, they must pay their First Half Property Taxes by December 10, 2011 to avoid penalty and interest

ACCORDING TO N.M. STATE STATUTE 7-38-83,
TIMELINES-B. ALL ACTS REQUIRED
OR PERMITTED TO BE DONE BY MAIL
ARE TO BE POSTMARKED
ON THE REQUIRED DATE.

The Lincoln County Treasurer's Office does honor the postmark, but your mailed payment **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY December 10, 2011.** If you mail a payment on December 10, 2011, request the postmaster stamp the date in your presence, to insure the postmark of that date.

INTEREST shall accrue at the rate of one percent (1%) per month or any portion of a month. (Statute 7-38-49 NMSA 1979).

PENALTY on taxes that become delinquent, shall be imposed at one percent (1%) of the delinquent tax total, or a minimum of five dollars (\$5.00), for each month they remain unpaid. (Statute 7-38-50).

By N.M. State law, property taxes are the personal obligation of the property owner, whether or not the tax bill was received. Mail payments or contact us at the address and phone number below should you have questions regarding your property tax bills.

Thank you.

Glenna N. Robbins
Lincoln County Treasurer
P.O. Box 970
Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301
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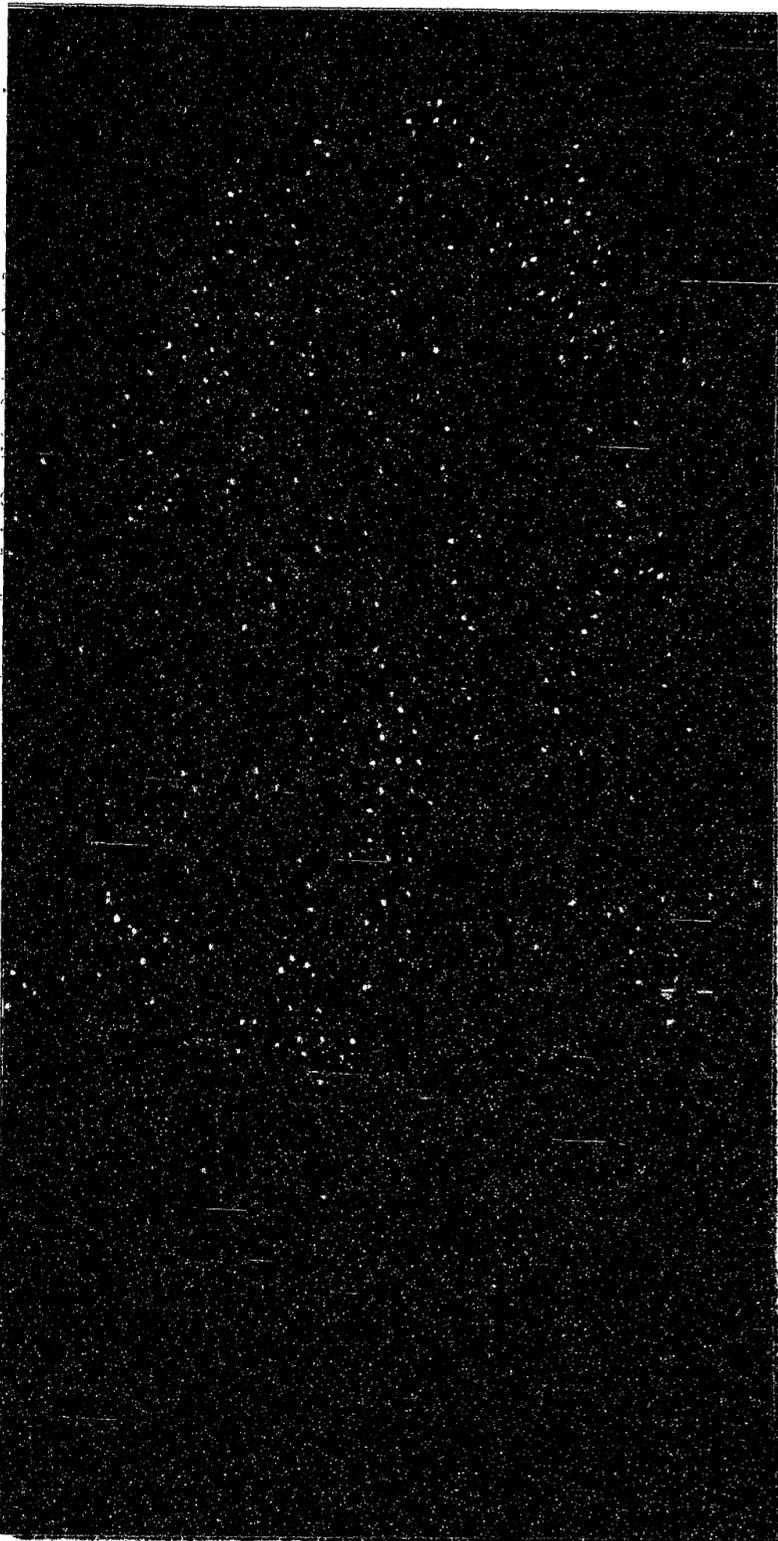
 Sat/Sun: 11:40 2:10 Daily: 4:40 7:10 9:40 *PG-13*	Happy Feet: Fri-Thurs- 2D- 4:40 Immortals: Sat/Sun- 3D- 11:50 2:15 Daily- 3D- 6:45 9:10	
 Sat/Sun: 3D- 12:35 2:50 Daily: 2D-5:05 3D- 7:20 9:35 *PG*	"The holidays are approaching fast so stop by and get your loved ones gift certificated for the movies!!"	

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LIGHTING UP THE PARK



The lights came on at Schoolhouse Park Thursday evening as a bundled-up crowd gathered around fire pits to stay warm while waiting for the hot chocolate, holiday music and sleigh rides. Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation workers adorn the trees with thousands of lights each year.

HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Plane crash kills two

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com
Two people perished in a plane crash that occurred nearly a week ago on the northeast corner of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. The crash wreckage was found Wednesday morning southwest of the San Patricio area. The victims were identified as Jerry Don Greene, 49, of Harmleigh, Texas, and Tracy Martinez, 30, of San Angelo, Texas. The Cessna 182R, registered to J.D. and Kat, Ltd, of Snyder, Texas, had been en route to Sierra Blanca Regional Airport after leaving Winston Field in Snyder on Saturday. J.D. and Kat, Ltd. is owned by Greene and his wife, Kathy.

Winston Field Manager Rodger Sullenger said Greene had contacted Sierra Blanca Regional Airport and informed airport officials that he had encountered bad weather and was turning around, according to the Snyder Daily News.

A search was initiated after Greene's father in Capitan contacted police on Tuesday to report his son was missing.

"We did activate a search and rescue this morning on information given by the family of the pilot and passenger that came out of Texas on a flight from Snyder," New Mexico State Police Lt. Robert McDonald said Wednesday. "Apparently the pilot hadn't been heard from since then. We had the Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and also our aircraft was in the air. The Border Patrol spotted what appeared to be wreckage in the mountains there."

The crash location was about nine miles south of U.S. Highway 70 or about nine miles southwest of a landing strip on what was

described as the Diamond A Ranch. You just never expect something like this."

There was a fire as a result of the Saturday crash but moisture apparently put the fire out, McDonald said. A pet dog also perished in the incident.

While it was thought the flight left Snyder around 9 a.m. Saturday, Sullenger said the exact time was uncertain because a flight plan was not filed. Pilots at non-controlled fields often do not file flight plans.

"He was a good pilot and not someone who would take risks," Sullenger said. "It's got everybody tore up.

Sullenger said Greene had been flying for roughly three years. He added Greene took his dog that was found in the wreckage everywhere he went.

An investigator with the Federal Aviation Administration and another from the National Transportation Safety Administration were at the crash Thursday.

The NTSB meanwhile looks for probably causes of transportation accidents.

The plane was a single-engine craft with seating for up to four people.

Walgreens advertisement featuring various alcohol products and a coupon. Products include 30/12 Oz. Cans of Keystone Light, Miller High Life, Pabst, Natural Light or Busch for \$20.99; 12/12 Oz. Btls. of Heinekens, Corona, Blue Moon or Fat Tire Amber Ale for \$11.99; 6 Pack Btls. of Newcastle Brown Ale, Mike's Hard Lemonade, Horsnby's Cider or Stella Artois for \$6.99; Smirnoff Vodka 80° for \$13.99; 750 ML. Bella Sera, Bolita, Turning Leaf or David Stone Wines for \$5.99; 750 ML. Hponotic, Tullamore Dew or Baileys Irish Cream for \$19.99; 750 ML. St. Clair Mirabres Red, Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve for \$7.99; 1.75 Liter Canadian Mist, Evan William's Black or Black Velvet Canadian for \$14.99; 1.5 Liter Little Penguin, Lindeman's or Concha y Toro Wines for \$8.99; 750 ML. Bacardi Rum for \$10.99; 1.5 Liter St. Clair Sangria, Principato, Sutter Home or Domino by Delicato for \$7.99; 1.75 Liter Captain Morgan Rum for \$16.99; Almaden Wines for \$11.99. Includes a coupon for \$2 off one bottle of Captain Morgan's rum.

Holiday debt and stress

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

The holidays can be a stressful time. And some of that stress can be financial. Brian Mirau, president and CEO of Mirau Capital Management in Ruidoso, said holiday gift giving can be a quite difficult time for those struggling with debt.

"We want to go out and spend and we want to give and a lot of times we spend money that we don't have," Mirau said. "The number one rule of debt management is if you don't have money in your pocket don't spend it."

The financial advisor said credit card companies can be very enticing to simply sign your name instead of paying cash.

"When you use cash for your purchases you tend to have a better idea of where those dollars are going rather than when you're just signing a piece of paper. It's kind of a mental thing there."

Those who live on a cash basis typically spend 20 percent less and do it without feeling deprived.

Mirau said a sure sign of a problem with credit is an inability to pay the bills.

"If you start trying to borrow money to pay off debt, it becomes a vicious

circle. And again, the number one rule is if you didn't have money in your pocket you shouldn't of had spent it. And one of the second best rules is if you make a dollar today, save a dime of that for down the road or for purchases down the road. If you can follow those two little simple rules, you probably won't find yourself getting into a debt challenge. And then when you do want to buy something down the road you don't have to get into your current cash flow to do that."

Mirau said remaining within a budget, especially during the holiday gift-buying time, is important.

"And maybe rethink what we think the word 'giving' means," Mirau said. He noted gifts can come in many forms.

Mirau strongly recommends paying off credit card bills in full each month. For those who get seriously behind, it is time to stop spending.

"And then build a plan to get rid of the debt and attack the highest interest debt first."

A second mortgage or home equity line of credit can be a good way to refinance a large amount of high interest debt because of the income tax break.

"But if you do that, you

have to be disciplined to cut up the cards on the other end and not continue to spend and create two monsters."

Mirau rejected the notion of borrowing from a retirement plan to pay for Christmas gifts saying it lacks "horse sense."

The financial advisor said the sooner young adults learn the basic disciplines, the better shape they are in when the get to retirement age.

"Getting into debt is such a trap out there," Mirau said. "I know when Karen, that's my wife, and I, when we both got out of college, we both graduated with business degrees from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. We'll never forget the day after we

graduated, we go to our mailbox there at the school and we opened up our mailbox, getting our last little bit of mail. We had about 15 of these credit card invitations. We sat there and added that up. And this was back in the early '80s. With just the signature of a pen, we had \$75,000 at our fingertips. We sat there and thought about how smart these guys are. We don't have jobs. We're right out of college. And these guys were trying to give us \$75,000. But we would have been bound by that debt for the rest of our lives."

Mirau recommended those who have difficulties keeping credit card debt under control consider a debit card.

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Services Provider For Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

In accordance with the State of New Mexico Procurement Code, the Twelfth Judicial District Court (Lincoln and Otero Counties) is accepting proposals from qualified individuals or organizations to coordinate, supervise and to provide services for a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program for FY2012. The annual contract amount will range from \$63K to \$70K. To receive a detailed copy of the proposal please contact Jan Perry, Court Executive Officer, at 575-434-7310, ext. 131. Proposals are due by noon (12:00 p.m.), Friday, December 9, 2011. All proposals shall be mailed to Jan Perry, Court Executive Officer, 12th Judicial District Court, 1000 New York Avenue, Room 209, Alamogordo, NM 88310.

NEW TRUCKS



JIM RALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Two new fire trucks are welcomed Wednesday by Lincoln County emergency responders. In front of a truck going to the Glencoe Volunteer Fire Department are, from left, Lincoln County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator J.P. Kenmore, Glencoe Assistant Fire Chief Walter Wilson, and Travis Atwell, who is both the county's OES director and fire chief at Glencoe. The trio to the right, in front of the second truck, are Bonito Volunteer Fire Department Chief Carl Bartley, Assistant Chief Robby Hall and Safety Captain Robert Vance. Both vehicles can be used for structure and wildland fires.

WINTER

FROM PAGE 1A

that would extend up toward the Sandia and Manzanos (mountains) and out even east to places like Clines Corners, Vaughn, Encino and Corona. That would pretty much be the window for what we think will be the heaviest snow."

The highest peaks of the mountains will attract the most snow, the forecast 12 inches plus. For Ruidoso, Jones predicted a "pretty solid" eight to 10 inches.

A combination of cold air that moved in Thursday night and will continue with temperatures nearly 20 degrees below normal for early December, and a strong storm center to the west, will work together to produce the winter storm labeled as "significant."

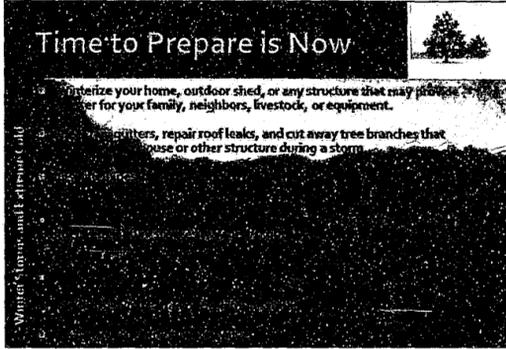
Winter travel

Lincoln County's road department is in "good shape" to deal with plowing and deicing roads, said Albert Hernandez, the road department superintendent.

"We have a lot of leftover salt from last year so this morning we took a roller and mashed it so the clumps are out of it," Hernandez said Thursday. "We've got four little snowplows. We've got a big snowplow already set up and ready to go. We hauled some salt into the yard from the airport pit so we've got salt at the airport pit and in Capitan. And we're putting new cutting edges on some of these blades to make sure they're all up to par. Everything will be ready to go."

Hernandez said the Ruidoso area is the main focus for using salt.

"I talked to my employees this morning. We had a meeting. We talked about who can I call, who's in town? And out of 15 guys, I've got 13 ready to go."



The department normally works 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday.

In Ruidoso, a snow and ice control plan established a year ago remains in place. In the plan are priorities for snow removal and salt spreading streets. The village's Street Department Director J.R. Baumann said his department is ready for the winter storm.

But with the amount of snow predicted, the odds are roads will get bad. In that situation, New Mexico State Police will discourage highway travel.

"With snowstorms, cold and ice, the most important thing for drivers to take into consideration is their speed," said Lt. Guy Archuleta, with State Police District 8, which covers Lincoln and Otero counties. "Slow it down to avoid losing control. With snow, I think what's most important is no sudden movements. No quick jerking of the wheel. Don't apply the brakes suddenly. Don't accelerate suddenly. And if the roads are bad, and it's not necessary, avoid travel."

Power issues

PNM is cautioning people to be prepared in the event of downed power lines or power outages. Stay clear of fallen lines and always assume they are electrified. In a power outage situation, use battery-operated lighting sources and not candles. An extra supply of batteries is

recommended. Make necessary arrangements for family members with special needs. And if the power goes out in your area, check on neighbors who may be alone or not in good health.

To report an outage, call 1-888-DIAL-PNM (1-888-342-5766) and say, "Outage." Customers of Otero County Electric Cooperative should report outages by phoning 1-800-548-4660.

Homes, vehicles

An official with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management said residents should have their homes and vehicles winterized. Exposed pipes should be protected because of the subfreezing temperatures and people should heed the advice of PNM by being prepared for the possibility of power outages.

"If planning travel our outdoor activities, keep up to date with the latest weather forecasts and statements from your preferred weather information source," said the department's Nick Piatek.

The supply of moisture would help the drought situation. Since Jan. 1, Ruidoso has received less than 60 percent of its normal amount of precipitation for the 11 months.

With cold winter temperatures at the highest elevations, the mountain snowpack may hold to help support stream flows next spring.

Adjustments to county Indigent Health Care fund seeing results

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Adjustments to income eligibility and reimbursement caps are paying off this year for Lincoln County's Indigent Health Care Fund.

To ensure money generated from a dedicated gross receipts tax would cover the cost of claims from non-hospital health care providers in 2011-2012, last year commissioners lowered the allowed eligible patient income level and reduced the payment caps for out-of-county hospitals and ambulance service.

During the regular Lincoln County Commission meeting in November, in his last indigent health care report to commissioners before retiring, out-going county Manager Tom Stewart said for the last two years, the average Indigent Health Care monthly payments were \$26,234.85 and \$36,466.74.

For the first five months of this year, the average fell to \$21,674.95, and the projected total for the year at that rate would hit \$260,099.35. The budget for the year is \$416,027.

"Thus, our program is viable going forward," he said.

The IHC coordinator processed 69 claims and 58 were recommended for

approval for a total of \$26,430.40. The county also received a refund from the Veterans Administration on a claim.

Under the Sole Community Provider Program, which reimburses the county-owned hospital in Ruidoso for indigent care, the coordinator processed 69 claims and recommended 65 for approval for a total of \$95,857.03.

Presbyterian Healthcare Services manages and leases the hospital. County contributions to the SCP program are matched four federal dollars to one local dollar. Payments usually are funded through revenue generated by a special property tax levy approved by voters.

Commissioners approved both categories of claims presented by Coordinator Scott Annala.

Other issues

In other issues, Stewart reported that:

- on Oct. 18, the nostalgic county map on the lawn of the courthouse was replaced with a new one made of metal, which should last longer. He thanked Fred LaFave of Carrizozo for the creative rendering.

- as requested during the last commission meeting, he sent a letter opposing the closure of rural post

offices in the county to the Postal Regulatory Commission in Washington D.C., the new district office in Arizona and to members of the county's Congressional delegation.

- Bobbye Rose was hired and began work Nov. 7, as a replacement for Renee Santos, ordinance administrator, who left on Nov. 11. The county also advertised for a new road superintendent to replace Albert Hernandez, who will retire Dec. 23. Thirteen applications were received by the Nov. 22 deadline and eight candidates were interviewed. The person selected will be introduced to commissioners at their December meeting.

- on Nov. 9, a required exit conference was conducted by the Accounting and Consulting Group that handled the county's annual audit. Commissioners Jackie Powell and Tom Battin, County Treasurer Glenna Robbins, Stewart, new County Manager Nita Taylor, Deputy Treasurer Beverly Calaway, Finance Director Punkin Schlarb, Finance Officer Rachel Monrreal and Inventory Specialist Michelle Caskey attended. The report was delivered on time to the state by Nov. 15.

Powell said the audit was one of the more outstanding in the state with "no real findings."

HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Shelter to improve kennels

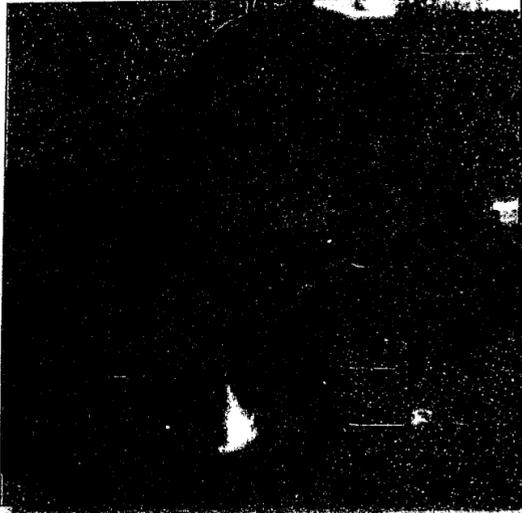
All is well with our Chihuahua family. About 5 weeks ago, Bonnie gave birth to a litter of 5 puppies.

Unfortunately, Bonnie and her puppies were abandoned by their owners. Fortunately, the puppies' father, Rex, stayed with his family until they were rescued and taken to our shelter. Bonnie and her puppies were put in a foster home with Josephine Strain, a volunteer at the Humane Society's resale shop.

Bonnie has been adopted by Josephine and the puppies will soon be available for adoption at the shelter.

Rex has been enrolled in our Humane Society's Good Citizen's program, which teaches dogs basic commands, such as heeling on a leash, sit, lie down, stay and come. Rex is scheduled to graduate in about 3 weeks, although he is available for adoption at the present time.

Regular readers of Shelter News will recall that the Humane Society recently matched a challenge grant of \$25,000 from an anonymous donor, so



COURTESY

Meet Bosworth, a beautiful hound, who is a very happy hound about 10 months old and weighs 55 pounds. He is very friendly and has a beautiful shiny coat. He also gets along well with other dogs. He has been in the shelter for over a month and we need to find him a good home.

\$50,000 is now available for shelter repairs.

We intend to use this money to replace the remaining kennels at our shelter that need to be replaced.

When this occurs, our shelter will have state of the art kennels for all of our resident dogs and cats, thanks to the generosity of Lincoln County residents

who made this possible.

Once again, our resale shop had a stellar month. Donations continue to come in at a rapid pace and go out the door just as quickly.

Everyone seems to love our resale shop and it is not uncommon to see luxury vehicles parked next to old pickup trucks in front of our resale shop building.

- From the Shelter



COURTESY

Trudy Lopez displays her husband's Christmas Village in the Nest's reception lobby.

Christmas village at the Nest

Christmas was always a huge event in the Lopez family, but after her husband Pete passed away in October of 2008, the holidays only reminded Trudy Lopez of her loss.

Trudy shares stories of her husband's elaborate and extensive lighted Christmas Village, which would cover more than twelve large folding tables in their Ruidoso Downs home. The Christmas Village was his special project, something he would shop for throughout the year and began setting up before Thanksgiving.

With her husband gone, Lopez didn't know what to do with his enormous holiday display.

For the past twenty years, Lopez has been a foster care provider and observed the joy her husband's Christmas village brought to the many foster children who passed through their home. "I thought of all the children at the Nest who had lost or been forced to leave their

homes. I thought maybe I could brighten their holiday," said Lopez, her voice cracking.

Lopez brought a fraction of her husband's village to the Nest on Tuesday morning and set up the display in the shelter's reception lobby. Each house or tree brought back a very special memory of her husband. Her favorite piece, the skating pond had broken; so her niece Debbie Garcia of Dallas went online and found one. Garcia gifted Lopez the new skating pond as a tribute to her sister Elizabeth, who passed away earlier this year.

Lopez intends for the display to honor her husband's life and bring his colossal Christmas spirit to residents and visitors of the Nest. Please feel free to stop by and see the Lopez Christmas Village on display in the lobby of the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter, located at 26374 US Highway 70 in Ruidoso Downs. For more information about the free and con-

fidential services of the Nest, please call (575) 378-6378.

Business appreciation

A few years back, HEAL sought bids from contractors to resurface the Nest parking lot.

Armin and Jasmine Grado, owners of Mr. Sealer in Ruidoso Downs, offered to donate their time and materials to the project. Mr. Sealer sealed the entire parking lot in one day's time, including painting the parking spot lines and handicap parking spots. They have returned to the shelter on an annual basis to maintain the surfaces.

"With grants being cut 30% in the last two years, an expense like parking lot resurfacing is simply not in the budget. We are so fortunate to have friends in the business community like Mr. Sealer, who step up and make a difference", says office manager Sue Francis.

- From the Nest

Vitamin D deficiency is on the rise

Nature's Pantry, an independent natural health store in Alamogordo, reports that doctors from the University of Madison, Wis., said the medical community increasingly believes that three in four Americans are low in vitamin D, and need to take 1,000 IU of vitamin D3 per day to reach the proper level.

The report is part of the December issue of "Natural Insights for Well Being," which Nature's Pantry publishes each month as a public service to help residents of the Alamogordo community understand the benefits of good nutrition and healthy

lifestyle. Also in the December issue, pro football players low in vitamin D tended to have more injuries; people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease had less severe and shorter flare-ups after taking echinacea, selenium, zinc, and vitamin C; and those who took antioxidants had better long-term memory than those who did not, among other important findings.

"Whether you want to perform better in sports, protect your mind as you age, or just stay healthy, natural nutrition can help," said Linda Free, Store Manager.

"The scientific journals we are reporting in this month's newsletter include, 'The American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine,' the 'Journal of Clinical Pharmacy,' 'Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology,' among other well-respected, peer-reviewed journals."

"Natural Insights for Well Being" is free, and Nature's Pantry invites all those who wish to gain more valuable nutrition knowledge to stop in or visit the store's website at <http://www.MyNaturesPantry.com>

- From Nature's Pantry

There are no shortcuts to Christmas

I heard a beautiful song on the radio. Amy Grant crooned, "All I need is a silent night. All I need is a midnight clear."

These, to be sure, are the opposite of what I've come to expect around this time-of-year.

So I'm bracing myself for the holiday hysteria, trying to figure how I can do the bare minimum, find some shortcuts, or at least avoid some of the chaos.

I avoided shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but even so, from now till the end of the year, every shopping trip means navigating narrow one-way aisles, stacked to the heavens with pallets-full of gadgets and toys.

Reminds me of boating on Lake Powell: The boat scraping the sides of towering rock walls. My shopping cart scraping the sides of towering cardboard walls.

I already received my first Christmas card in the mail. How could that be? I'm still eating leftover Thanksgiving turkey and someone out there is already working on her Christmas cards?

I haven't even decided if it's going to be hundreds of cheapo Family Dollar cards or a couple dozen Hallmark cards or a few custom photo postcards or no cards at all. And she's already done. And the thing was hand-written. Sheesh.

I'm also trying to decide whether to get down all the

Christmas boxes or not. Every year, I go through this. Do we really need to get EVERYTHING out?

Seems like we just packed it up a couple months ago. Couldn't we just NOT decorate for Christmas this year? Can't we just hide from anyone who comes over? Like when we run out of Halloween candy - we'll just turn off all the lights and hide. They'll think we're not home.

Another problem with opening those Christmas boxes:

Once the box is opened and the stuff is set free, the stuff expands exponentially. Like that aerosol insulation stuff that turns brown and crusty over time. Yeah. Just like that.

One year, I got militant and tossed some of the junky junk. But the very next year, I was inundated with new junk.

My theory, therefore, is that Christmas stuff has a will of its own. Whatever you do, don't throw any of it out. Throughout the spring and summer and fall, it's congregating underground somewhere, plotting revenge.

En masse, it will arise and attack next year. Don't believe me? Try it: throw away a bunch of Christmas stuff and just see if

you don't wind up with even more the next year.

And do we really have to send gifts? Can't I just get everybody gift cards? Stick 'em in the Christmas cards?

Oh wait, that means I'd have to send cards after all.

One year, we tried the everybody-just-gets-one-gift approach. Everybody played along except Mom. She cheated and got everybody extra gifts. Made us all look bad, and we spent the entire next year trying to make up for it. Smart lady, my mom.

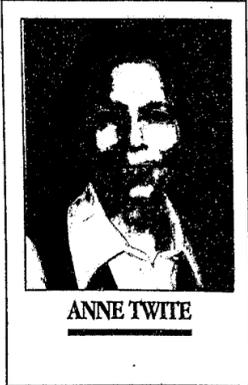
We also tried the one-item-per-person Christmas dinner menu once, and that didn't work either. Nobody picked fruit salad and what is Christmas dinner without fruit salad? Mom made all the stuff that nobody picked anyway. So I learned that there's just no messing with the traditional holiday menu. It is what it is, and whether there are 4 or 40, the menu, in my family anyway, is going to be the same.

I guess doing it all is doing the bare minimum. There are no shortcuts. And like it or not, Christmas, to some degree, means chaos. I'll send out hundreds of cards. I'll shop for cool gifts for everyone.

I'll open all the aerosol Christmas boxes and watch helplessly as the stuff expands to fill my house. I'll get a big beautiful real tree, dress it up with the memories of Christmases past, then gather, sweep, rake, and shovel dead pine needles in January.

It's going to be Christmas as usual at my house: lists and shopping, baking and chopping, wrapping and rushing and prancing and dashing.

As my visions of silent nights and midnights clear evaporate with a soft sigh, I see in their place exuberant nights and midnights raucous. Welcome back, Christmas.



ANNE TWITE

Presbyterian has Medicare Advantage plans that cover your concerns.

Join us for a Presbyterian Medicare PPO Informational Seminar on Dec. 5 at 10 a.m., Village of Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center, 501 Sudderth Dr. Call 1-800-347-4766 to reserve a seat.

A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs, call 1-800-347-4766/TTY 1-888-625-6422. A Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract.

PRESBYTERIAN
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REPORT

FROM PAGE 1A

story in Wednesday's Ruidoso News looked at fuel sales, the area of the most significant financial loss to the village.

Fees fall short

Another major review focused on T-Hangar leases at the airport. The oldest dates back to 1995, when the charge was \$160 per month, plus fees for water and electrical use. As of May 21, 2009, the charge remained the same with no increase in 14 years while the Consumer Price Index jumped by more than 40 percent, according to the report.

Twenty-two small hangars leased for \$160 per month and four large hangars leased for \$295 monthly. Figuring the average increase in lease per year should have been about \$4.50, the airport would have realized an additional \$1,200 per year, if lease fees had kept pace, the report states. Instead, a net loss of \$16,800 resulted from failure to increase rental fees. The Federal Aviation Administration wants to see rates adjusted at least every five years.

"By increasing our T-Hangar rent to reflect the current CPI, along with our ramp fees, parking and sunshades, (the airport) can realize an additional \$33,800 per year," the report assembled by Camp and King states. A document comparing Sierra Blanca Regional Airport's \$160 fee to other airports in New Mexico and Texas showed rates as high as \$450 a month and nothing less expensive than \$200 a month.

The team also found that in violation of lease conditions, several hangars were being used for storage, at least one with expensive paintings and sculptures. They warned that another New Mexico airport recently was closed because of non-compliance with Federal Aviation Administration requirements for hangar use to be aircraft operations only. Regular inspections of hangars were to be conducted in the future.

Lost opportunities

In reviewing the performance of the consultant overseeing the airport since 2005, an initial draft of the report and the final assessment both noted a lack of management oversight at the airport by the consultant and several specific deficiencies. The team recommended the consultant's \$28,600 annual contract be canceled to reduce expenses and intrigue among staff and to eliminate any violation of the state's anti-donation law. The consultant canceled the contract.

Under lost opportunities, the report stated that Ted Stallings, who heads Aero-Tech based in Roswell and Clovis, approached previous airport management about establishing a Single Engine Air Tanker base at the airport but he was turned down.

The village council, in a split decision, nixed the proposal.

In an interview Thursday, Stallings, who is not related to the reporter of this story, said he helped obtain about \$350,000 in state money for a water system to run to the airport at no cost to the village. He planned to invest \$3.6 million to construct a based with 14 aircraft, some fixed wing



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

A recent report regarding the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport shows for several years the village lost thousands of dollars because airport management was under cutting hangar rental fees.

and helicopters that would have been moved from Clovis. He said he would have employed about 60 people, 14 coming from Clovis, but the rest hired locally.

"We bought 45 acres in Ranches of Sonterra to build a house," he said. But to cover other on-ground improvements that would belong to the village if he ever left, Stallings secured a \$1,184,000 grant. The improvements included taxiway upgrading, the driveway into the base, landscaping, water and moving a fence, he said.

"I didn't mind paying for the building, but the rest was on city property and I couldn't take it with me," Stallings said. "It would have cost the city \$19,000 as a grant match."

A government entity had to be the actual grant recipient and fiscal agent. Stallings pitched the offer to the council and showed

report. The tribe operates a Lear jet based in Albuquerque. When the tribe wants to fly, they summon the jet from Albuquerque to Ruidoso.

"Earlier discussion about Mescalero moving their base to SBRA ended with (name redacted) entering into an argument with tribal officers and telling them, 'We don't want you here.' The interim (airport) manager approached the tribal officer on the airfield and discussions regarding their possible relocating to SBRA will commence in the future. They are very interested in being local," according to the report.

Staff criticisms

The staff in 2009 also received some harsh criticism in the report, which noted employees operated according to their own rules, failed to respect village poli-

cies, that there was a lack of leadership directing day-to-day work activities and that the most junior member of staff had the highest qualifications for airport operations.

At the time, elimination of the airport director position was recommended. The report also cited abuse of overtime, unnecessary 24-hour staffing and employees "sitting" rather than performing duties such as grounds keeping and maintenance.

The report noted that pilots were the source of much of the anecdotal evidence and that they expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the work ethic and observed inefficiencies.

The earlier draft of the report was even more specific.

"The airport has been riddled with the very minor of policy infractions to the very major, including smoking in

public buildings, napping on the job and theft of airport and other employees' property," it stated. "Since the move to Public Works, a chain of command has been established and work is getting done."

Infractions

Some of the infractions listed in the draft included nighttime and daytime employees sleeping on the job; gratuities being accepted from customers; washing and detailing customers' "extremely expensive" vehicles on village time; and disrespect for village policy and any authority.

One incident of vandalism to a village vehicle was reported about a month after the assessment report was compiled, but no one was ever charged. Although the final report didn't list all of those problems, the recommendations for corrections

seem to parallel the findings in the draft. They included conducting anti-donation training, immediate disciplinary actions for violations, posting "no tipping" signs, sending letters to customers regarding tipping, drug testing the airport staff, implementing tighter inventory and accounting controls on fuel sales and changing security access to the surveillance system.

Finding savings

Staff reductions already accounted for an annual \$171,804 savings in salaries and benefits to date, according to the report. By July 28, 2009, the elimination of three positions, renegotiations of a fuel supply contract, elimination of contract fuel sales for \$200,000 savings, adjustment of hangar leases rate for \$21,264 more revenue and cancellation of the managerial contract for \$28,600 resulted in a cost savings of \$429,968.

Possible future action of transferring two of the staff attached to the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting to the Ruidoso Fire Department would save another \$98,807, and would improve the airport's fire insurance rating by essentially establishing a substation at SBRA, the team noted. When not responding to emergencies, the firefighters could handle other duties for a cost-savings to the airport. The transfer never occurred and apparently is on hold.

During the two years since the report, and following organizational changes and tightening of rules, staff productivity at the airport has been praised by village administration officials.

"I told them that \$1,845,000 was a pretty good return on their \$19,000, plus GRT. We mailed the grant approval papers back to Washington D.C. and said we didn't want it. A lady called me and couldn't believe it."

Ted Stallings
Aero-Tech

council members the approved grant. On local gross receipts taxes alone, the village would have collected about \$300,000 and retain about \$90,000 for its own coffers, he said.

"They turned it down," he said. "There was a big split on the council at the time. The preceding council was all for it."

Airport management at the time did not significantly participate in the proposal, he said.

When he heard the vote, "I went wow," Stallings said. "I told them that \$1,845,000 was a pretty good return on their \$19,000, plus GRT. We mailed the grant approval papers back to Washington D.C. and said we didn't want it. A lady called me and couldn't believe it. We expanded in Clovis with a 40,000-square-foot building and are building a huge facility in Alaska. We are going somewhere where they love us."

The base could have created many high-tech jobs and provided at least two SEAT planes at the airport year-round to fight wildfires, the report noted.

Another incident of dropping the business ball was discovered during a conversation with a Mescalero Apache Indian Tribal officer July 6, 2009, according to the

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Hirsch to serve 12 years of 40-year sentence

DUANE BARBATT
Alamogordo Daily News

One of the six defendants charged for his involvement in a burglary ring in Otero and Lincoln counties was sentenced Wednesday to 12 years in prison for his part in the thefts.

Beau M. Hirsch was facing a possible 40 years in prison for the burglaries that occurred between May 14 and June 1, but 28 years of his sentence was suspended.

Hirsch, 21, will have to serve the 12 years concurrent to the eight-year sentence he received in the Lincoln County verdict.

He will have to pay \$55 to the domestic violence fund and a \$100 DNA fee. He is also subject to warrantless searches and drug and alcohol screening while on parole and probation.

Hirsch will have to pay restitution to his victims,

but a future hearing must be scheduled to determine the dollar amount of the restitution because an estimated \$125,000 in property was stolen from six Otero County and three Lincoln County homes during the burglary spree.

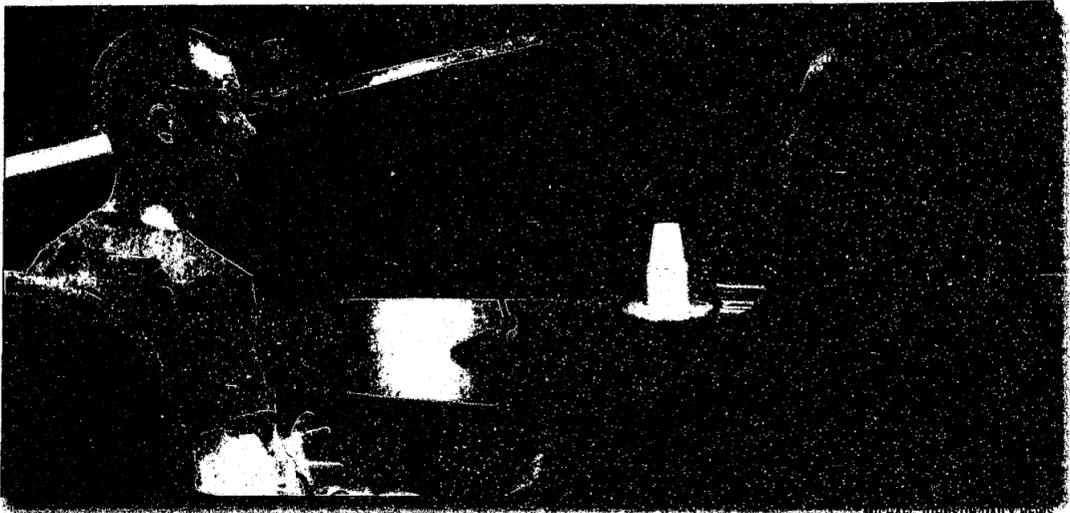
Most of the property was returned to the victims.

He was originally charged with 36 counts of burglary, conspiracy, larceny tampering, breaking and entering, and receiving and disposing of stolen property.

In a plea and disposition agreement reached with the state on Oct. 13, 26 charges against Hirsch were dismissed per the agreement.

Hirsch will be placed on two years of parole and five years probation that will run concurrent to each other after he serves his 12 years in prison.

He was on probation in Lincoln County for a simi-



Beau M. Hirsch, left, talks with his attorney Todd Holmes before Hirsch's sentencing hearing Wednesday afternoon in District Court. Twelfth Judicial District Judge Jerry H. Ritter Jr. imposed a 12-year prison sentence on Hirsch for his involvement in a burglary ring that spanned Otero and Lincoln counties.

lar conviction and living in a halfway house in Alamogordo during the time the burglaries were committed.

Hirsch, during his sentencing hearing, apologized

to the court, his victims, the halfway house and the Adult Probation and Parole Office.

"I plan to enroll in the therapeutic community for substance abuse," he said

to the court. "Prison is not a good place for me. I need to grow up. I want to be a father to my kids and a husband to my wife."

The state, represented by Assistant District

Attorney Tim L. Aldrich, said Hirsch needs to learn a lesson and have the suspended sentence of 28 years in prison hanging

See HIRSCH, page 13A

GOLDWEATHER

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Man arrested for Thanks-taking

HAROLD OAKES
hokes@ruidosonews.com

This Thanksgiving guest raided more than the refrigerator.

Ruidoso police arrested Gary Potter, 19, on a charge of larceny Wednesday after investigating a complaint filed Monday.

"We had a burglary reported on Johnson Road," Detective Cpl. Lawrence Chavez said.

The victim told Officer David Gallegos she suspected Gary Potter of stealing the items from her bedroom. Her teenaged son had befriended Potter, who had been living in a tent behind the RV campground east of Two Rivers Park.

"Gary Potter was wise enough to leave us all his information when he put them in Apache Trading Company," Chavez said.

Chavez arrested Potter

for larceny and receiving or disposing of stolen property.

"During search incident to arrest we found a large amount of pills," Chavez said. The pills were Hydrocodone and Oxycodone. "During interrogation (Potter) admitted he was trafficking in them."

The interrogation of Potter revealed there were other crimes and other people involved.

"Turns out they were on a country-wide spree that ranged from Kentucky to Washington state," Chavez said.

Potter, Nicholas Morgan, Kenny Padgett and perhaps another man, left Kentucky at the end of August or beginning of September and stopped in Ruidoso to see an ex-girlfriend of one of the men.

Chavez said the men went to Washington and on

the way back, Morgan got arrested in Tucson for driving a pickup he stole from his grandfather and Potter got someone to buy him a bus ticket back to Ruidoso.

Arriving back in Ruidoso in mid-October, Potter reportedly set up in his tent. That is when he met the victim's son.

"When the weather started turning cold, (the victim) invited Potter to stay at their house for the night some nights to stay warm," Chavez said. "For Thanksgiving week, she had her son invited Potter to stay with them and have Thanksgiving."

Potter stayed with the victim from Wednesday through Friday. On Friday she noticed her jewelry was missing.

"I can't charge him with burglary because he was invited into the house," Chavez said.

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HIRSCH

FROM PAGE 12A

over his head.
 "One thing I've learned is people take their constitutional rights seriously in New Mexico," Aldrich said during the hearing. "It was very dangerous to break into someone's home in New Mexico. They're lucky no one was shot (by a homeowner). It's amazing they're alive."

He said Hirsch at first was evasive with law enforcement but eventually did admit to the crimes.

Hirsch's defense attorney Todd Holmes said Hirsch was addicted to methamphetamine.

"The crimes were done because of drug abuse involving meth," Holmes said. "Beau (Hirsch) is encouraged by the intervention. He needs to fix this problem while he's in prison. Most of the property was recovered. He realized the truth was the best way to go. I think it was an appropriate sentence. I always hate to see young kids go to prison, but this was a fair decision."

Judge Jerry H. Ritter Jr. said he wanted to send a message to Hirsch with a 12-year prison term.

"It's so dangerous of a situation (to burglarize a home)," Ritter said from the bench. "You don't have a lot of room to victimize the community. If you don't get the message, you might not walk out of a home next time. If you broke into my house and threatened the safety and security of my family, I would have probably shot you. The majority of our community would have probably shot you."

He said a person's home is their sanctuary of safety, security and a place to retreat from the stress of the world.

"Stuff can be replaced," Ritter said, "but the feeling of safety is gone. This sentence gives you a chance. If you fail to pay any of your fees or restitution to your victims, you might as well go back to prison. If you violate any time while you're on parole and probation, I will send you back to prison."

The five other individuals, Hirsch's wife, Brittany Hirsch, 19; Justin A. Williams, 23; Raquelle Pena, 21; Chad Milligan, 21; and Chad R. Funk, 21, have also been charged with numerous felonies in the burglary ring.

All five are awaiting either further criminal proceedings or sentencing hearings in the case.

The Otero County Sheriff's Department first became aware of the ring June 1 after an astute neighbor spotted two men milling around his neighbor's residence in the area of North Florida Avenue and Scenic Drive.

The neighbor called 911 to notify the sheriff's department about the two men.

Alamogordo Department of Public Safety officers were then notified of the two men fleeing in a silver Dodge pickup truck that was traveling south on Florida Avenue.

ADPS officers were able to make a traffic stop on the truck and arrest the men.

"The caller got into his vehicle and followed (the two men) while giving the dispatcher the pickup truck's direction of travel," Sheriff Benny House said at the time. "Alamogordo Department of Public

Safety was able to do a traffic stop at North Florida and Indian Wells on June 1.

"It started the ball rolling. During the follow-up investigation on June 2, there were some items located that appeared to be consistent to property reported stolen from other jurisdictions and ours. It led to the execution of two

search warrants on a residence in the 200 block of Maryland Avenue and a location in the 2800 block of Indian Wells."

House said OCSD, ADPS, and Adult Probation and Parole Office agents discovered numerous stolen items at the two locations.

Undersheriff David Hunter, at the time, said

the suspects are not from Alamogordo, but were living in a halfway house in town.

"They were enrolled in rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of their probation conditions," Hunter said. "Rehabilitation programs are normally successful for individuals who are sincere about completing the pro-

gram and sincere about not violating the law. It's not a reflection on the program."

He said he believes rehabilitation programs give people a chance to change their lives.

"It gives individuals a chance to change and live a law-abiding lifestyle," Hunter said. "The individuals who run rehabilitation programs in our area are

very dedicated individuals. They sincerely try to help people succeed in the programs. It is the first time we have had this many people who were in the rehabilitation program operating together.

"This started because one person was watching out for his neighbor and reported it to law enforcement," Hunter said.

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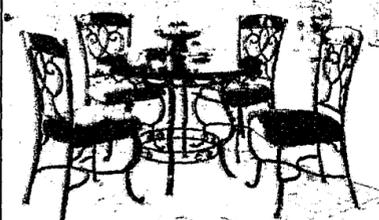
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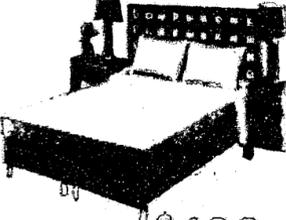
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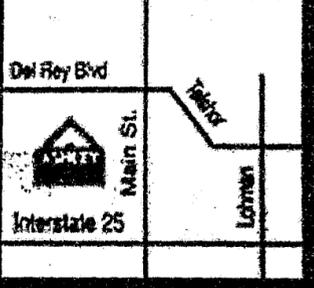
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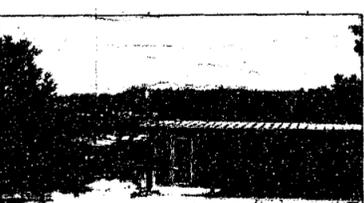
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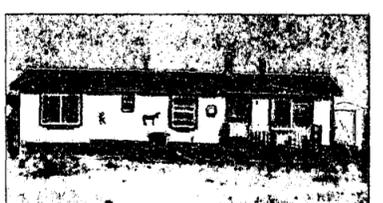
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Results

Girls Basketball
Tuesday, Nov. 29
Ruidoso 64, Socorro 56

Sports On Tap

Girls Basketball
Saturday, Dec. 3
Ruidoso at W. Las Vegas, 4 p.m.
Cloudcroft at Capitan, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 6
Hondo at Elida, 5 p.m.
Tularosa at Mescalero, 6:30 p.m.
Match at RHS, 7 p.m.

Boys Basketball
Saturday, Dec. 3
Tularosa at RHS, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 6
Hondo at Elida, 7 p.m.

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Bull Elk Hunt

A Mescalero Bull Elk Management Hunt will be raffled to benefit the St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project. Two tickets sell for \$5. The drawing is set for Dec. 4, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The hunt values at \$3,000, will be conducted Jan. 7-11, 2012. A required guide will be provided. The winner must pay the \$15 habitat fee, provide vehicle fuel and a tip for the guide. Tickets are available by calling Mary Serna at 575-464-4539. The project mailing address is P.O. Box 187 Mescalero, NM 88340.

Krav Maga: No neutral corner

BILL DEMENT
For the Ruidoso News

In life, unlike boxing, there is no neutral corner. In life, unlike martial arts competitions, you can be ahead on points, and still get sucker punched.

That brings me to today's reality-street survival. Having a repertoire of knowing how to throw a punch is a good start, grappling arts like wrestling and jiu jitsu is good to know, but the last place you want to be is on the ground.

Take a look around. The economy is in the toilet, people are increasingly desperate, and when we look in the mirror we are getting older. For many of us, we can't raise our legs higher than to tie our shoes. Forget about kicking someone in the head. Could you defend yourself or a loved one if threatened with physical assault, robbery, or the use of a weapon? I wanted to understand a self-defense method that could be used by the young and elderly, the moderately infirmed, both men and women, where individual strength

or weakness didn't matter, and something that was practical and relatively easy to learn.

I first met Shon Wright two years ago at his studio in Albuquerque. Shon is a Level III instructor of Commando Krav Maga (CKM). He has studied a multitude of martial arts over the years from Shotokan Karate, Kojosho, Taekwondo, to Aikido. He is a military contractor and upon preparing for a stint overseas in 2003/2004, he was introduced to Israeli Krav Maga.

Shon set me straight right away. He said, "Krav Maga is strictly a self-defense, a combat survival form of art. There's no way to compete with it. It is solely geared towards survival."

Wright explained that Krav Maga was created in the 1930s in present day Israel by Imi Lichtenfeld to defend fellow Jews in Bratislava. Krav Maga literally means "contact combat."

"They cherry-picked the simplest, most effective parts of every art form that



See **KRAV**, page 2B **Moni Azik**, U.S. Commando Krav Maga instructor, takes down a knife attacker.

Lady Warriors battle back; go 1-1

RHS girls lose season hoops opener to Roswell but come back with a win the next day

MIKE CURRAN
mcurr@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso girls varsity basketball team hit the hardwood at home Monday and lost to Roswell, 81-42. They redeemed themselves the following evening at home by defeating Socorro, 64-56, to even their record at 1-1 going into Saturday's 4 p.m. game at West Las Vegas.

The real story, however, is how well they've done in spite of debilitating injuries the squad has suffered.

Two potential starters are out with injuries and a third is out because of surgery (Claudia Morales will join the team next week if she will be pronounced sound).

"All three should be back on the floor by the

Christmas break," RHS girls head coach Dean Hood said. "Right now, our bench is basically made up of JV players who have greatly helped us get through the first two games."

"You have to be careful with that, though. You can't overcompensate the varsity team with younger players when the JV has its own games to play and there's only so much playing time allowed by the rules."

"The girls who have filled in for us (varsity) from JV have done a great job and contributed much in Tuesday's win over Socorro. Felicia Polaco and Shanna Sandoval chipped in nicely in that victory."

"Our guards ran into foul trouble and two of the girls played the entire

fourth quarter with four fouls against them."

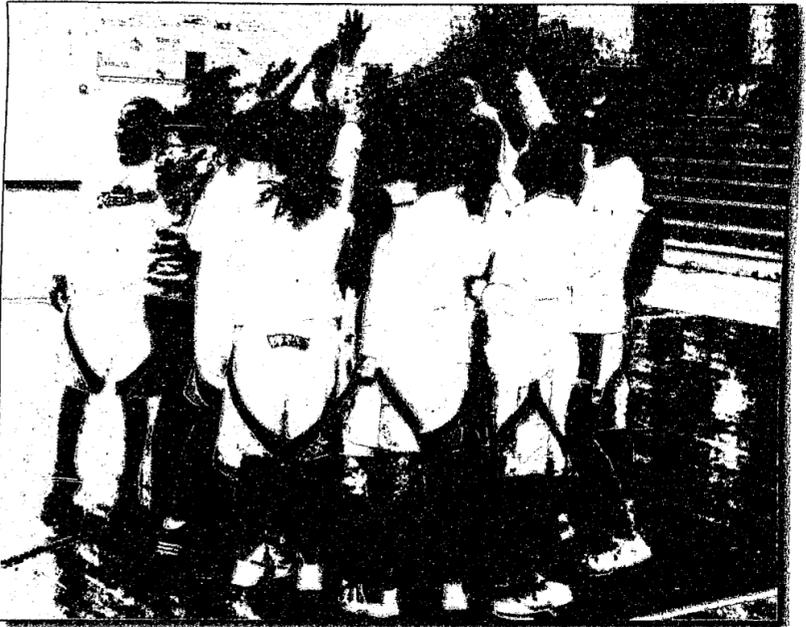
Tentatively, the five starters in Saturday's game should be Lorely Enriquez, Madigan Gonzales, Talia Randolph, Lyndsey Saenz and Brittanie Vega but Darien Magooshboy, Polaco and Sandoval also will see playing time.

"We have some talent on the varsity team," Hood said. "All of them work hard and are intense out on the floor. Physically, we weren't ready in our opening game against Roswell."

"The following evening, Socorro was quicker than we anticipated and we had to adjust for that. The press worked for us but we had to pull out of it when we ran into foul problems."

"It created turnovers for us. We intend to use the press more in future games."

Hood has coached basketball, on and off (mostly on), since 1976 and although this is his first year with the RHS girls



The Lady Warriors celebrate Tuesday after their 64-56 win over Socorro.

team, he likes what he sees and enjoys his job. He has some good help, too.

"Assistant coach Jason Kampsky, who played basketball at RHS not so long

ago, has been invaluable," Hood said. "He has great eyes for what's going on out on the court. I trust him 110 percent and the girls believe in him, also."

The Lady Warriors will participate in their first tournament in Artesia, Dec. 8-10, where they will open up against Carlsbad Thursday morning.

Aggies must fight for all four quarters

TEDDY FEINBERG
Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS CRUCES — New Mexico State head coach DeWayne Walker didn't think his football team quit Saturday at Louisiana Tech.

But one thing he does want to see is the Aggies play a full four quarters this Saturday when they host Utah State in their season finale.

"No question, no doubt about it," Walker said. "This game is all about

guts." No one will deny last Saturday was a tough one for the Aggies, a 44-0 road loss in the rain at Louisiana Tech.

NMSU gave up 14 points in the final 30 seconds of the first half — Louisiana Tech finished a 95-yard drive with a touchdown, then followed that with an interception return for a touchdown that proved to be a dagger.

They then came out of the locker room and

looked flat as the Bulldogs moved the ball downfield for yet another touchdown, and a 30-0 lead.

It was a different scene for an Aggie football team that has shown fight throughout the year.

"When I watched the tape — and I really looked at that — when I looked at the tape, I didn't see guys quitting, barely lining up, getting out of the way. I didn't see that, personally," Walker said. "I saw (Louisiana Tech) execute and I didn't see us

execute. I didn't see guys not trying to make plays. That's the first thing we look at."

"What happens when we're in a game, and the (opposing) offense comes down, scores on the first drive? Even when the score's close. So to me, what's the difference?"

True freshman Travaughn Colwell's inexperience showed in a game with too much on

See **NMSU**, page 2B

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Need I say more! Joe Zagone

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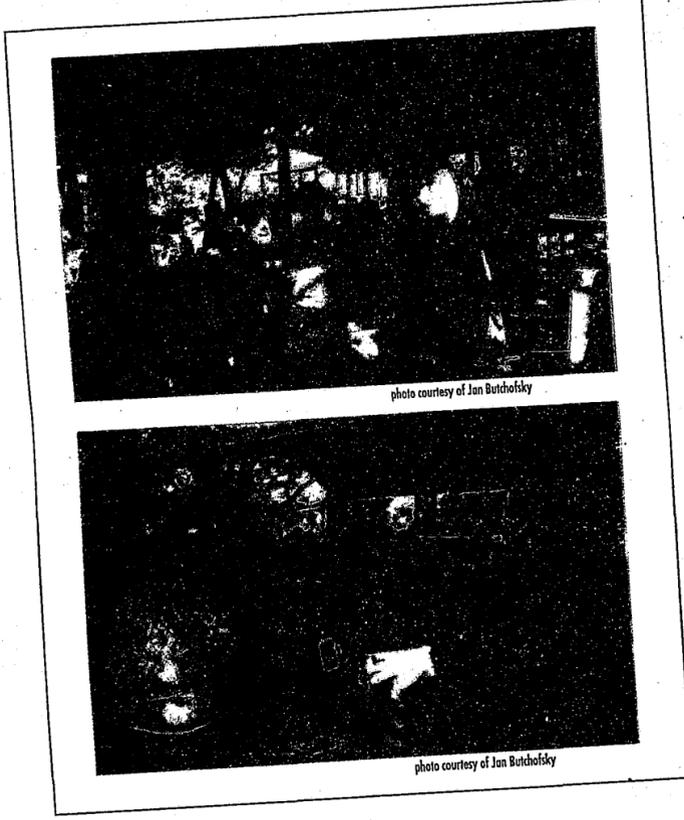
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Dear Beth:

The Lincoln Country Art Loop its' 16th Annual Art Tour in July and it was a huge success! As Advertising Chairperson, I review all visitor comments, and I know that the wonderful visitor turnout was, in large part, due to our advertisements in the Ruidoso News, Southwest Living and Vamonos. Thank you for your help in making our event so successful!

Sincerely,

Victoria Mauldin,
Lincoln Art Loop
Steering Committee Member



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RELIGION

Be thankful for the world around us

The wonder of the world around us is amazing. But I think that sometimes we grow to take every-thing that is around us for granted.

For example, our beautiful mountains here in south central New Mexico are taken for granted by those who never leave our paradise in the Sacramentos. After spending four weeks away in the flatlands of Texas, I rejoiced to see the snow covered beauty of our southern Rockies. As I live here from day to day, I seem to take them for granted.

The same situation is true of other things in my life. I am sure that I am not the only person plagued with this anomaly. The things that we are blessed by in our day-to-day lives, we seem to take for granted. This past weekend of Thanksgiving was an eye opener for me.

We spent time away from Ruidoso. We live here year round, but, in our family reunion, we were

surrounded by family and old friends.

The family has grown. I could not believe the "rug rats". Our great grandkids were scrambling around every-where. Most are under six. I remember ten years ago that there were none of them. I suppose that those years had made me accustomed to the grown up grandkids. I had forgotten the wonder of babies and lit-tle children.



CHARLES CLARY
CLARYFICATIONS

I had a chance to work on my "bucket list" of three couples that had worked on staff with me at Tate Springs Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, I was able to meet with them and tell them how much I appreciated them for their service to God and His church with me. Sometimes, we forget to tell folks how much we appreciate them and thank them for their friendship.

I was able to take the individual couples out for dinner and spend an evening in remembering the days gone by. Bruce and Cindy Edwards

had left to start South Oaks Baptist Church. Dwight and Vera McKissic had left to start Cornerstone Baptist Church. They had been assistant pastors. Sandra and Hubert Haynie were still at Tate Springs, but she had retired from her Minister of Children's work.

It was enjoyable to meet with each couple and remi-nisce of things gone by. But, most importantly, to thank them and tell them how much I appreciate them for their friendship and service. I am not saying that everyone should have a "bucket list", but I do think that we should remember to thank every one for their help for today and look forward to our hopeful tomorrow.

Willie (Billie) Scroggins

1919 - 2011

Born March 3, 1919 in Roane, TX to Bertha & Pete Ware. Passed into a better life November 21, 2011 in Alamogordo, NM.

Ms. Scroggins was a longtime resident of Ruidoso. She loved her church, family & many friends at the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center.

Ms. Scroggins was preceded in death by five sisters, two brothers and one grandson Benny Roller Jr. She is survived by her son Eddie Scroggins; daughters Carol Roller, Trina Funderburk, Tia Henson & Toni Knox; 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 8 great great-grandchildren; sister Fay Bailey & numerous nieces & nephews.

Heart felt Thanks goes out to Casa Areana Blanca Caregivers for all their love & kindness to mother. A memorial service in Texas will take place at a later date.

All we're thankful for

Thanks to all my won-derful readers for sending me your lists of what you're thankful for this holiday season.

If we think of thankful-ness as just some abstract concept, we lose its trans-forming power in our lives. If we just express grate-itude for generalized things like family and health, I also believe thankfulness lacks its proper punch. We need to make our thanks personal, real and specific, so we can continuously remind ourselves that we've been given more – much more – than we deserve.

Here's a sampling of your lists:

Dear Rabbi Marc,

I agree with everything you wrote in your Thanksgiving column, but I'd like to add my own thanks. First of all, I'm thankful for you and the insight you bring into my life. (Note from MG: OK, I know it's self-serving to include this comment, but I'm touched by your kind words about the column.)

I'm also thankful for the fact that 52 years ago, a 10-week-old baby boy was placed in my arms to take home and raise as our own. He was a beautiful

baby, a fine boy, an obnox-ious teenager and a very handsome man. Now, in our old age, we're thankful that he now has two delightful daughters going through the teenage years. He wonders how we got through this time, and my answer is to just love your children and guide them as best as you can. They'll turn out to be as wonderful as you. – F.

Dear Rabbi Gellman:

I'm thankful for the truly kind and gener-ous people we have among us. I'm thankful to the neighbor who's willing to help you get your ailing husband into the house upon his return from the rehab center. I'm thankful for my nephew, who says he's only a phone call away anytime he's needed. I'm thankful for the stranger I just met when I went to her house to buy a piece of medical equipment. She refused to take any money, carried the equipment to

my car, and offered to come to my house if I needed her help. These wonderful, unselfish, com-passionate people make the adversity in our lives easier to bear. – M.

Dear Rabbi Gellman:



MARC GELLMAN
THE GOD SQUAD

I'm thankful for the U.S. Postal Service letter carriers. When these hard-work-ing people are thought of at all, it's usually as the butt of a joke. Letter carriers should be thanked often by anyone with a mailbox. When it's snow-ing and 30 degrees or humid and 90 degrees, everyone should peek out

the window of their cozy home or office and remem-ber the person who deliv-ers their mail every day.

A letter carrier drives with the window open--so cold in the winter and hot in the summer – or walks for six or seven hours. The walking routes are approx-imately 10 miles long, traveled with 40 pounds of mail on your shoulder! I know this because I tried doing this job many years ago. Fresh out of college with few career prospects, I thought it would be fun to be a letter carrier. Eighteen months later, I resigned because it was so physically demanding and those I served rarely gave me a compliment or showed any form of appre-ciation. Even now, every rainy, snowy, or hot and humid day, I silently send a "God bless" to all the let-ter carriers. – M.

Matthew Little

1964-2011

Matthew Frank Little was born on earth on December 26, 1964 and woke up in heaven on November 28, 2011. He married Toni Ortega on June 21, 2003. He is survived by his mother, Margie Little; wife Toni Little; three sons, Brian Little, Mark Little and Lance Little; one daughter, Hope Little; two sisters, Jacqueline Little and Regina Garcia; one brother, Christopher Little; uncle, Raymond Little and two aunts, Rita Shaffer and Bernadette Chavez; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his father, Andrew Little Jr. and his sister, Lisa Joann Little.

He was residential carpenter and a dedicated Kansas City Chief fan and cook. He loved being with family and friends and cooking for them. He had a sense of humor, was loving and caring. Matthew was loved and cherished by everyone and will be greatly missed.

Prayer service will be Friday, December 2, at 6:00 PM in St. Joseph's Mission at Mescalero where the funeral mass will be Saturday, December 3, at 10:00 AM with burial to follow at the Little Family Cemetery. A reception dinner will follow at Carrizo Community Center.

A memorial service will be Sunday, December 4, at 10:00 AM in the Family Worship Center.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com

Bradley Edward Bennett

1932 - 2011

Bradley Edward Bennett was called home during the late hours of November 21, 2011. His dual battle with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's was over.

Brad was born September 17, 1932 in Long Prairie, Minnesota to Agnes and Jordan Bennett. He was an Eagle Scout, active in student government, and an excellent student. He attended the University of Minnesota and earned an education degree. In 1953, he married his high school sweet heart, Audrey Nentwich. Audrey also earned a degree in education. Brad taught math and Audrey music. In 1957, Brad was drafted into the army. He and Audrey moved to El Paso, Texas. Their only child, Laurie, was born shortly after their arrival to Texas. Upon leaving the army, Brad resumed teaching. The majority of Brad's 35 year teaching career was spent teaching math at Bel Air High School in El Paso. He was a very active faculty member having sponsored the slide rule club, the chess club, and the Key Club.

Besides teaching, Brad and Audrey also shared a love of antiques. They enjoyed collecting various pieces ranging from Audrey's primitives to Brad's fine pottery. When they finally retired from teaching, they opened up an antique shop, Rosedale Antiques, in El Paso. In 1990, they found their dream home in Ruidoso, New Mexico and moved. They soon opened up Rosedale Antiques in Ruidoso. The couple cherished their days in the beautiful mountains of Ruidoso.

Overall, Brad had a good life filled with many interests and activities, dogs and cats, friends and family, and a loving wife of 53 years. Brad will be truly missed.

Preceding Brad in death are his parents Agnes and Jordan, and his wife Audrey.

Brad is survived by his daughter Laurie Garland, son-in-law Gary Garland, grandson Ian Hewitt, and step sister Jackie McNight.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Brad's caregivers at Casita de Cura, Ruidoso Home Health Care and Hospice, and Dr. Michael Clements.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in Brad's name to the Ruidoso Humane Society.

Mary McGill

1931 - 2011

Graveside service for Mary McGill, 80, of Ruidoso will be Friday, November 2, at 2:00 PM at the Kermit Cemetery at Kermit, Texas.

Mary passed away Friday, November 25, 2011 in Ruidoso. She was born May 30, 1931 at Daisetta, Texas. She moved to Ruidoso in 1994 from Kermit, Texas. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Kermit, Texas. She married Bill McGill on April 9, 1952 at Kermit and he preceded her in death on June 30, 2009.

Mary was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is survived by a son, Dale McGill and his wife Gindy of Ruidoso; two daughters, Amanda Knight of Ruidoso and Raven Soto and her husband Sandro of Ruidoso; grandchildren, Chris McGill, Brandy Piluga, Brian McGill, Michael McGill and Paula McGill; and 13 great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by a son, Rickey McGill.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Board recommends variance for miniature horses

Carrizozo residents speak at meeting on behalf of horse owner

ERIK BEARER
ebearer@ruidosonews.com

Carrizozo's Planning and Zoning board meeting saw the beginning of a resolution for Cherie Cloudt and her miniature horses.

"I was very pleased that the Franklins are so professional and knowledgeable about planning and zoning, and that they're so accepting of cultural diversity," Cloudt said on Thursday, referring to Dan and Jennifer Franklin, members of the board. "I'm very humbled by the amount of support from the community."

Cloudt petitioned the board for a variance on Tuesday to allow her horses to remain on her 12 lots in a residential district, following almost a year of miscom-

munications and wrangling on between Cloudt and the municipal government that could have ended with her having to remove the horses.

"I just hope the board will see the mistakes that have been made, that were out of my control, and you will see that I sincerely tried to do what was right," Cloudt said.

Cloudt added that the horses continued to serve a purpose for two Carrizozo students who trained for horse shows with them, as well as with weekly visits to New Horizons Developmental Center.

Former Planning and Zoning chairperson, J'lane Zamora, spoke after Cloudt, saying she wanted a chance to defend herself after several negative comments from Cloudt.

"I had a duty to uphold the P&Z ordinance, which I did do," Zamora said, adding that Cloudt's earlier complaints about being intimidated by a police presence during a visit from Zamora were a result of town policies.

Zamora said former Mayor Mike Petty directed her in February to take a police officer with her when she was acting as zoning administrator, to serve as both protection and a witness.

"It was the police department's job to check on animals," Zamora said, adding that the board's involvement with animals and zoning was a new development resulting from a changing job description for zoning administrator.

"P&Z was not involved with animals until these issues came to the front," said

Judy Fitz, zoning administrator and member of the board. "There was also concern that any house she (Zamora) went to as zoning administrator could be a jeopardy situation, and that's why the police were insistent on going."

Zamora said that in July, Mayor Dennis Vega told the board to send a formal letter to Cloudt, stating that the ponies were in violation of zoning and needed to be removed.

"With communication from Cherie (Cloudt) to the planning and zoning, we could have come up with a conclusion for her to keep her burro, and two ponies," Zamora said. "It was the responsibility of Cherie to go to the town hall and get a copy

See ZONING, page 7B

COWBOY SANTA



Riding in Sally Canning's wagon from the Laughing Sheep Farm, Santa rings in the season during the Cowboy Santa parade last year. The parade will return to Capitan on Dec. 10.

Thrift shop is far from '2 Shabby'

ERIK BEARER
ebearer@ruidosonews.com

The Not 2 Shabby shop, standing beside the Capitan Public Library, has had more than four years of business and social success as the store sells and gives away serviceable items donated by area residents.

Rayne Greer, manager of the shop, said the shop sells and accepts nearly anything, excepting electronics, on account of not wanting the liability of selling potentially malfunctioning items.

The shop, run by a group of 10 to 11 volunteers, was founded May 25, 2007, by members of the Capitan Public Library to help support the all-volunteer organization.

Sales from the shop go to support the library, which relies on the shop's revenue, private donations, fundraisers, and money from the village, county, and state to

remain in operation.

Greer said she worked with the library for some years before the shop opened, often managing the library's village-wide yard sale.

"So when they started thinking about the job, they said 'would you like to manage it,'" Greer said. "I said 'OK, maybe for a year' — that was four and a half years ago."

Not shabby

"One of the first things the board said was 'we want it to look nice,'" Greer said, who screens incoming items with the philosophy of, "if you wouldn't put this item in your house, we're not going to sell it."

The items sold by the shop come entirely from community donations, Greer said.

And while there were seasonal increases in donations, such as after Christmas and during

See SHOP, page 7B

Rodeo, Taos Muncy style

He's always polite, perpetually humble — with perfect manners and a country-boy look that tends to contradict the inevitable explosion of athletic skill that detonates at the crack of a bucking chute gate.

Corona, New Mexico's Taos Muncy, 24, has once again put the world of rodeo titles under siege. It's just how he does things.

Taos ended his 2011 regular rodeo season leading the professional rodeo saddle bronc standings on both sides of the Canadian border — for the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) and CPRA (Canadian Professional Rodeo Association).

In November, he, along with wife Marissa and baby daughter Marley, made the drive to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where he competed in and won the Canadian National Finals in the saddle bronc riding.

The championship title came down to the wire, also Taos's style. He won the Canadian title on the last horse on the last day, once again putting Corona, N.M. on the map, but this time in a foreign country.

Except for his trips to the Calgary Stampede which he won in 2009, Taos had never rodeoed in Canada before. However, he was talked into it by his brother-in-law and saddle bronc rider Cody Taton. Cody, transplanted from South Dakota to New Mexico, didn't qualify for the Canadian Finals this year but had twice before.



JULIE CARTER
*Cougirl Sass
& Savvy*

Taos picked up \$16,000 over the 4th of July in Canada and decided to make a run at the finals. When he qualified, he was sitting in first place with only a \$4,600 dollar lead.

As this story goes to print, Taos has started on his quest for yet another world title, his second on this side of the border, at the 2011 Wrangler National Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada. He sits in first place in the standings with a narrow margin of \$7,500 over second place and 10 of the toughest broncs away from a world title.

In 2007, his second on the pro circuit, Taos became the third competitor ever to win the College National Finals rodeo and

a PRCA World Championship in the same year. That historical accomplishment was embellished by winning Cheyenne Frontier Days that year along the way.

He missed qualifying for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008 due to a broken leg and in spite of another leg break early in 2009, he qualified and did so again in 2010.

Prior to making his name at the Canadian Finals this fall, Taos picked up another title closer to home by winning the Turquoise Circuit for the year.

While most of Taos' titles involve broncs and buckles, he wears a few others that round out the package of who Taos Muncy is.

He first is a son and brother in a close knit rodeo and



JULIE CARTER FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Professional rodeo rider Taos Muncy.

ranching family that are as grassroots and down to earth as you will ever find. He also answers to two new titles he earned this year that give depth and completeness to his very normal life at the ranch — husband and daddy.

When he comes off the rodeo road, he easily slides back into the duties of a ranch cowboy — checking waters, breaking ice, branding cattle, feeding, fixing fence and the endless list of other regular ranch duties.

And just before he gets ready to hit the road to Las Vegas, the tiny Corona community comes together for a potluck sendoff, complete with "Good Luck" posters from the school kids and never-ending well wishes.

It's where he started out and where he'll return. His map is one of a road to glory, but his inner GPS will always bring him home to the ranch.

Julie can be reached for comment at jcarternm@gmail.com.

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ZONING

FROM PAGE 6B

of the ordinance."

"I think J'lane's (Zamora) hands were tied to a huge degree," said Jennifer Franklin.

Testimony

Following Zamora, Patsy Sanchez, a realtor that worked with Cloudt, said that precedent for agricultural animals in residential areas of the town had been previously set on several occasions, making it a difficult ordinance to enforce.

"The ordinance itself needs a lot, a lot, a lot of work," Sanchez said.

Several other residents spoke at length, testifying that Cloudt and her horses

are an asset to the community.

"Going around Carrizozo, you'd never know animals weren't allowed," said Hope Delatorre. She added that while she had once been embarrassed by Cloudt's section of the block, it was now an area she went by with pride, pointing it out to visiting friends as a reason to move to Carrizozo.

Dirk Norris, director of the Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce, said that while he didn't "think somebody deserves a variance just because they've cleaned up their yard," Cloudt's contributions and volunteer work within the community, coupled with the fact that they're miniature horses, made a world of difference.

"I hope we don't get to the point where we're serv-

ing the rules instead of the rules serving us," Norris said.

"What I've seen is that the people that come to town and try to make improvements are the ones being hassled the most," said Gary Lovelace, advocating a gradual transition into full enforcement of the ordinances after several years of 'anything goes.'

"There is an issue with the process with the city in regards to getting things answered or done," board President Dan Franklin said. "That's part of the reason we chose to get involved."

Put to a vote

"Without a neighbor willing to come and publicly speak against you (Cloudt), I'm going to vote to let you

keep your horses," Jennifer Franklin said after almost an hour of audience testimony, casting the first vote in Cloudt's favor. "I think that's the fair thing, because of the miscommunication, to grant you a variance."

Board member Joey Thornton followed suit, adding that the miniature horses were "more of a pet." And while ineligible to vote from his office of board president, Dan Franklin also spoke on Cloudt's behalf.

"I think it's good that so many people turned out to show their support," Dan Franklin said. "I understand that we do need to uphold our ordinances, but there's also a reason variances exist."

"I think that the fair thing, because of the miscommunication, is to have

a variance," Fitz said. "On the other hand, I don't know if the town council is going to approve that."

Put to a motion, the board voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council that a variance be approved for Cloudt to keep her horses.

Additionally, Dan Franklin proposed working with local realtors to include information on the ordinances and zoning in with closing packages for new homeowners.

Other business

The board, led by Fitz, invited Lovelace to become a member of planning and zoning.

"You know the history, you know the people, and you know the ordinances pretty well," Fitz said.

Lovelace agreed, and

said he would submit a letter requesting his appointment for the next town council meeting, scheduled for Dec. 12.

The board further recommended that Roque Solis be allowed to place a garage over an existing water line, though it was recommended that he move the line.

"If it floods, it's your problem," Thornton said.

Solis said he would look into the cost of moving the line.

The board also moved to table the discussion on John Paul Ventura's fence in order to get new measurements.

Thornton said that it was "close enough" to meet visual requirements at the intersection, but the streets around his residence were not standard to begin with,

SHOP

FROM PAGE 6B

spring cleaning, she said the community has always been "very supportive" of the shop and the library.

And for a thrift store, Greer said the items and cleanliness of the store were often a surprise to visitors.

"We have people that walk in the door and say, 'Thrift store? This doesn't look like a thrift store,'" Greer said. "I have customers from Roswell and Alamogordo that regularly come up and make a day of it."

And with the generosity of residents and the dedication of volunteers, the shop will continue to "sell good

"We have people walk in the door and say 'Thrift Store? This doesn't look like a thrift store.'"

Raynene Greer
Manager, Not 2 Shabby Shop

quality items at reasonable prices," Greer said.

Community

But in addition to shoppers, Greer said the shop also donated items to needy families as part of their agreement with the village of Capitan.

"We have a lease that's \$1 a year (with the village)," Greer said. "But we have to provide community services, such as giving things away, and that's

called an in-kind services, and we do that under the auspices of our community connections. So anyone that needs anything can come in and say, 'We need this.'"

But for those looking to buy household items, clothes, furniture, art, or any kind of gift, Greer said they are welcome to "come on by and give money to a charitable organization."

The Not 2 Shabby shop, located at 217 South Lincoln Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The shop will be closed on Dec. 22 through 24, and Dec. 29 through 31.

For more information on the shop, or to donate items, call (575) 354-0149.

LINCOLN COUNTY BRIEFS

Library bazaar

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 3, the Capitan Public Library will have their annual fundraising bazaar inside the library.

More than 40 local artists will display their works inside the library, accompanied by a bake sale and See's candies.

For more information, contact the library at (575) 354-3035.

Cowboy Santa

The parade begins at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the west end of Capitan, travels down Smokey Bear Boulevard, and finishes at the library.

Children may take photos with Santa in the library after the parade,

and parents may pick up copies of the photos on Dec. 13 at no charge. Refreshments will be available.

For those wishing to participate in the parade, applications are available at the library and the Post Office, and are due by noon on Dec. 9.

Food drive

Dec. 5 through 15, Carrizozo's Junior Rotary will be conducting its annual food drive, collecting any non-perishable items, such as rice, noodles, canned goods (that have not exceeded their expiration date), and other items.

Please send donations to your child's classroom, or contact the school at (575)

648-2346 to make a donation.

Holiday hoedown

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 3, the Carrizozo Woman's Club, featuring a variety of arts and crafts.

Lunch also will be available, with the choice of red or green enchiladas, salad and chocolate or lemon cake for \$7.50 per person.

Musicians sought

New Horizons Developmental Center is seeking musicians play for the residents, as well as artists or craftspeople to make use of the center's art supplies.

Call Laura Rose at (575) 648-2379 or on her cell, (970) 210-7933, to volunteer.

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

Lincoln County Clubs/Associations

Alto Women's Association: 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Alto Club House for lunch and cards. Business meeting every first Tuesday.

Angus Wood Carvers: 5-8 p.m. every Monday, Nazarene Church Camp, Junction Hwys. 48 and 37; 336-9161.

Art Connection: Last Wednesday of each month. Innsbruck Club House. Info: Pat, 258-3602.

Carrizozo Women's Club: Second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the clubhouse at 11th and D Avenue; Info: Tona Macken, 354-0769.

Duplicate Bridge Club: 1 p.m. every Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday, plus a 299ers game 1 p.m. Mondays; Rui-doso Senior Center; Info: 257-7411 or 257-6188.

Fort Stanton Museum: Thurs. - Mon. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 12 - 4 p.m. For group tours call 575-336-4136, or 575-336-4015.

Insighters Book Club: 6:30 p.m. first Wednesday of each month at Insight Books, 1860 Sudderth. No charge and all are welcome; Info: 257-4625.

Lincoln County Bird Club: Monthly field trips are scheduled at various times. Info: 257-5352 or 258-3862.

Lincoln County Garden Club: Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 9:45 a.m. New members and visitors welcome; Info: Jordan, 378-5250.

Lincoln County Right to Life Chapter: 6:30 p.m. every second Tuesday at 309 L.L. Davis Dr. All are welcome; Info: 258-5108.

Mountaintop Turners: Woodturning club, 10 a.m. every third Saturday at the woodshop of Steve and Madeleine Sabo. Info: 354-0201.

Party Bridge Group: 1 p.m. Wednesday and Friday at the Ruidoso Senior Center; 336-4808.

Photographic Society of Lincoln County: 7 p.m. every second Thursday in the conference room at the Region IX office at 1400 Sudderth Dr.; 258-4003.

Pine Top Car Club: Cruise on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. to various restaurants; Denise Dean, 257-4966.

Ruidoso Area Singles: Meet new friends for social activities - dining out, parties, potlucks, outings, dancing, games. Info: Linda, 575-258-5863, or Martha, 575-430-

9808. **Ruidoso Federated Woman's Club:** Meets every Monday; program varies. Potluck and bridge/card games. Second Monday (Sept.-May) includes program, business meeting, potluck, bridge/card games. 116 S. Evergreen.

Ruidoso Masonic Lodge No. 73: Meets first Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., except national holidays, then moves to second Monday. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Info: 973-0953.

Ruidoso Mommies Group: Want to meet other moms in the area through playdates or Mom's night out? Call Natasha, 640-7076, or Alice, 258-3331, or Ruidoso Moms on Facebook

Ruidoso Ridge Runners 4-Wheel Drive Club: Meets 1st Wed. monthly at K-BOB's. Dinner 6 p.m. and meeting at 7. Info: 336-2714 or 378-4853.

Education

ESL/Spanish GED: Classes sponsored by ENMU-Ruidoso Adult Basic Education English as a Second Language. Mon. & Wed. 3:30pm-5:00pm or Mon. - Wed. 6pm-8pm Spanish GED: Tues. - Thurs. 10:00am-1:00pm and Tues. - Wed. 4:00pm-8:00pm Sign up at the White Mountain Annex Building (203 White Mountain Drive) or call 258-1730

First Friday Adult Lecture Series: Monthly, Capitan Public Library, free. Info: 354-3035.

GED classes: Classes sponsored by ENMU-Ruidoso Adult Basic Education Block Classes Mon. - Thurs. 9:00am-Noon or Independent Study Mon. - Thurs. 1:00pm-5:00pm and Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm Sign up at the White Mountain Annex Building (203 White Mountain Drive) or call 258-1730

La Junta F.C.E.: 10:45 a.m. every 3rd Wednesday at San Patricio Senior Citizens building. Info: 653-4718.

Help & Healing

A Course in Miracles: Atitudinal Healing study group: Each Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. High Mesa Healing Center, 336-7777.

A Course in Miracles study group: Wednesdays, 6:45 - 8 p.m. Free. Drop-ins welcome. The Wisdom Study Group. At The Yoga Studio, 2810 Sudderth Dr., #207, (upstairs) to right of and above Schlotzkys) Call Marianne 575-257-0527.

Al-Anon: Meets at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday and 6:30 p.m.

every Tuesday, 1216 Mechem Dr., Unit 1, ground floor, Ruidoso; info: 258-8885.

Al-Anon: Meets at noon every Friday at Methodist church in Carrizozo. Come to back door; bring your lunch.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Ruidoso Arid Group. Daily 7:30 a.m., noon, 5:15 p.m.; Mon., 6:30 p.m., women's open meeting; Thurs., 6:30 p.m.; Fri., 7 p.m., Beginners and young people's big book study; Sat, Sun, 7 p.m. 1216 Mechem Dr., Unit 1, (ground fl) Ruidoso. Info: 258-8885.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Ruidoso Sunny Spirit Group. Mon. & Thurs. at noon, Fri. at 5:30 p.m., Women's group meets Wed. at noon. Parish hall of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount at 121 Mescalero Trail.

Bereavement or Grief Support: For the community. Call Ruidoso Home Care & Hospice Foundation. Info: 258-0028.

COPE: Center of Protective Environment -1204 Mechem Drive, Suite 12, Ruidoso, NM. 575-258-4946. M-Thur. 8:00-5:00, Fri. 8-12n.

Gamblers Anonymous: Meets at 7:15 p.m., Thursdays at the Mescalero Reformed Church, 336 Wardlaw Dr. For more information, contact Mike at 575-682-6200.

H.E.A.L. and the Nest Domestic Violence Selter: 515-378-6378; 24 hr Hotline: 866-378-6378.

Holiday Grief Support: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - noon, Ruidoso Public Library conference room. Sponsored by Ruidoso Home Care & Hospice Foundation, 575-258-0028.

Meditation Practice: First Wednesday of each month; 6:30 p.m. High Mesa Healing Center, 336-7777.

Mountain High Recovery Group of Narcotics Anonymous: Meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 7 p.m. at Ruidoso Downs First Baptist Church, 361 Highway 70 East.

Open Circle: Each Sunday; 9:30 a.m. High Mesa Healing Center, 336-7777.

Parenting Classes: Counseling Center Prevention Program facilitates all parents seeking to enhance parenting skills, resolve issues and prevent substance use. Families with children ages 5-17 years of age that complete all requirements of the class qualify for a \$150 stipend. Qualifications and info: Brenda Motley-Lopez or Salli Mason at 257-0520.

Parents of Addicted Children: New Name Ministry offers help for parents of addicted children. For appointment, phone 802-0263 in Ruidoso and leave a message. Payment of free-will offering appreciated.

Prepared Childbirth Classes: Meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Lincoln County Medical Center's conference room. Six classes per session with qualified, certified instructors; info: 257-7381 (ask for OB dept.).

Sanctuary on the River: Life enrichment classes, seminars. 207 Eagle Dr. 630-1111. sanctuaryontheriver.com.

Science of Mind Study Group: Each second and fourth Saturday; 10:30 a.m.-noon; High Mesa Healing Center, 336-7777.

Sex Addicts Anonymous: 5:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall meeting room, 121 Mescalero Trail. Info: 575-201-4203.

Stretch & Tone Class: For men and women of all ages, 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Senior Center, 501 Sudderth; Emese, 258-0003, or Terry Franklin, 257-4565.

The Lincoln County Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Support Group: meets on the third Thursday of each month from noon-1p.m. in the Parlor at First Baptist Church, 270 Country Club Drive, Ruidoso. For information, contact Mary Barnett at 257-9810.

Women Helping Women is a support group for domestic violence victims and survivors. The group meets every Wednesday from 2-3 PM at Sweet Charity 26156 US Highway 70. There is no cost and bilingual services are available.

Working Disabled Health Insurance: State of N.M. Working Disabled Individuals Medicaid Program; call Jeanie White at 575-622-4169

Political

Democratic Party of Lincoln County: Monthly meetings 6 p.m. first Thurs-day of each month at K-Bobs. Info: Dick Mastin 336-2170.

Democratic Women Sacramento Mountain Area: Third Saturday at Pizza Hut, 1201 Mechem, 11:30 a.m. For information call 808-1133 or 257-6078.

Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County: Meets 4th Monday monthly, 11:30 a.m., Ruidoso Senior Center. Bring sack lunch. For information, call 430-7258.

Republican Party of Lincoln County: Meetings at Cree Meadows Country Club; info, 336-7038.

Service Organizations

Altrusa Club: 5 p.m. every third Tuesday, First Christian Church,

1211 Hull Rd. Info: Deb 336-1486 or www.altrusaruidoso.com.

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 52: 6:20 p.m. every other Wednesday; Angus Church of the Nazarene. Info: 808-1172.

B.P.O. Elks No. 2086: 7 p.m., first and third Thursdays, Elks Lodge Building, U.S. 70; info: 257-2607.

B.P.O. Does: Noon, second and fourth Thursdays, Elks Lodge Building, U.S. Highway 70.

Children's TeamKids Discipleship Program: 6-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays (Sept.-May), First Baptist Church, 270 Country Club Dr., Ruidoso. For children age 4 to 6th grade; Info: 257-2081, www.fbruidoso.com.

Friends of Capitan Library: Call for volunteers for Not 2 Shabby Thrift Shop. Info: Raynene, 354-3046 or library, 354-3035.

Humane Society of Lincoln County: Gavilan Canyon Rd. shelter/ropen Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat 11-2; ReSale Shop at the Y open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Sat; info: 378-1040.

Kiwanis: Tuesdays at noon at K-BOB's; Rutalea, 258-1431.

Laughing Eyes Kennels: Nonprofit breeder and trainer of service dogs seeks volunteers to assist with dog handling, socialization, bookkeeping, fundraising, kennel upkeep. Call 575-354-4342, or www.lekennels.org.

Lincoln County Community Health Council: 8 a.m. first Tuesday of each month at Community United Methodist Church, 220 Junction Rd. New members welcome. Info: 973-1829.

Lincoln County Medical Center Auxiliary: 9:30 a.m. second Tuesday of each month in the hospital conference room. New volunteers welcome. Info: 630-4250.

Lincoln County Sheriff's posse: Meets first Sunday monthly, 2 p.m. at Posse building, Hwy. 54, Carrizozo. Groups needing volunteer security services, notify by mail one month prior to the monthly meeting. Send to P.O. Box 1284, Capitan, NM 88316. Info: 575-354-8007.

OES Ruidoso Chapter 65: Meeting every second Thursday at 7:30 p.m. 144 Nob Hill Dr. Info: 257-5313.

Optimist Club (Friends of Youth): Noon every Wednesday at K-BOB's. Info: 257-5938 or 258-9218.

PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Chapter AR: Meeting every second and fourth Tuesdays. Info: Jennie Powell, 258-3896.

Rotary International, Ruidoso-Hon-do Valley Club: 11:45 a.m. every Tuesday at Cree Meadows Country Club. Info: Gary 258-0059, Georgia 937-0564.

every first Monday at the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center off East Highway 70; Info: 378-8099 or 378-8316.

Ruidoso Evening Lions: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Evening Lions Club House, 106 S. Overlook (behind Chef Lupe's). New members always welcome. Info: Mike Zaragosa, 937-0768 or Harold Oakes, 937-7618.

Ruidoso Needle Crafters Club: Every Sunday at Books, Etc. 2340 Sudderth Dr., 2 - 4 p.m. 575-257-1594.

Ruidoso Shrine Club: 6:00 p.m. every fourth Wednesday at Cattle Baron Sudderth; 336-2541.

Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club: Meets at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday for lunch and meeting at Cree Meadows Country Club; Info: 258-1345.

Sacramento Mountain Village: Senior service & activity group, open to 55 years and older; meets 4th Sat. of month, 9:30 a.m., Cree Meadows Ct. 258-2120 or sacmtnvillage.org.

Sierra Blanca Daughters of the American Revolution: Third Thurs-day of each month. Info: 258-3045.

Zia Girl Scout Council: 6 p.m. every third Thursday at the Cherokee Mobile Village Clubhouse on U.S. 70. Info: 437-2921.

White Mountain Search & Rescue Team is open for membership to volunteers interested in various disciplines. We meet at 7 p.m. every third Monday at First Christian Church, 1211 Hull, Ruidoso. Info: email@whitemountain-sar.org, Tony Davis, 575-336-4501 or visit www.nmsarc.org for NM search and rescue activities.

Veterans

American Legion Jerome D. Klein Post 79: 11 a.m. every third Saturday, SE corner Spring St. & Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs. Info: 973-1719.

American Legion James A. Hipp, Post 57: First Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. Sr. Citizens Center, Capitan; 575-336-2194

VFW Post 12071 meets the third Monday of each month at Evening Lions Hut at 106 Overlook (behind Chef Lupe's) at 7 p.m. All eligible veterans of foreign wars are invited to attend and join. For more information call: 575-808-1227.

VFW Post 12071 Ladies Auxiliary meets third Monday of each month at 1200 Sudderth (across the street from In-Ka-Hoots) at 7 p.m. All eligible spouses, mothers, daughters, and widows of veterans of foreign wars are invited to attend and join. For more information, please call: 575-258-1345.

Soda Time!

Add a bit of fizz to your holiday party with a homemade soda bar

By Lindsey Romain
CTW Features

Socializing is one of the joys of the holiday party, but to one likes to leave the conversation to fetch another drink from the kitchen. So bring the conversation to the drinks by setting up a homemade soda bar. It livens up the party and gives guests an opportunity to create their own fresh-flavored drinks.

"You can go as high-tech or as low-tech as you want," says Jeremy Butler, the self-professed Homemade Soda Expert who writes a blog of the same name. "It all depends on how you're making and carbonating your soda, the amount of space you have and how much money you want to put into it."

More expensive routes involve converting chest freezers into chilled keg draft systems or bottling homemade club sodas, but for an easy party set-up, all that's needed is a carbonated water source and pre-made syrups for guests to mix and experiment as they please.

The volume of flavors depends on the party, but Butler advises stocking up and being prepared.

"I always go through more than I think I will," he says, "so be sure to have extra syrup and carbonated water on hand."

Butler also says to allow plenty of space and to keep a checklist of other necessary items: syrups in easy-to-use dispensing bottles, clean glasses, adequate amounts of carbonated water and lots of ice. Keep cleaning materials nearby, because syrups can create a sticky mess.

Purchasing premade syrups from the store may be



Dark Chocolate Egg Cream Syrup Makes 3 servings

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine the sugar, cocoa powder and water in a small saucepan, and whisk together until smooth. Bring to a boil, then remove from the heat and stir in the milk and vanilla. Let cool to room temperature, then chill. This syrup will keep in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.

To mix with seltzer

- 1/2 cup ice-cold chocolate egg cream syrup
- 1/4 cup crushed ice
- 3/4 cup seltzer, preferably from a siphon

Combine the syrup and crushed ice in a tall glass. Add the seltzer, aiming it toward the side of the glass to encourage a large white head of foam to rise to the top. Makes 1 serving

easiest, but be warned: additives and artificial sweetening can muddle the ingredients list. Try making a simple syrup by boiling equal parts sugar and water. Or try other natural flavoring products, like agave syrup or honey.

"Start with flavors that are nostalgic but basic," says Butler. "If you can tap into what the main flavor components are in traditional holiday foods, you can probably adapt them into a soda: rum flavor and nutmeg for eggnog, peppermint for candy cane, molasses and ginger and cinnamon for gingerbread."

And don't be afraid to experiment with more complex concoctions. Add milk to make a frothier, heartier drink, like an egg cream soda. Despite the name, egg cream sodas don't actually contain egg; they get their name from the foam generated when the milk and carbonated water are combined. Try this recipe for a dark chocolate egg cream soda, excerpted from "Homemade Soda" by Andrew Schloss (Storey Publishing, 2011), or stick to Jeremy Butler's recipes for candy cane and gingerbread sodas.

Candy Cane Soda Makes 1 gallon

- 2 1/8 cups sugar

- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 8 drops red food coloring (optional)
- cold carbonated water up to 1 gallon (2 2-liter bottles)
- 3 teaspoon peppermint extract or 3 peppermint tea bags or 1/3 cup finely chopped fresh peppermint leaves
- 1 cup water

Combine sugar, water and cream of tartar. Bring to a boil and simmer 20 minutes. Let cool. Add food coloring and mint extract, ensure it is well blended. Add to carbonated water and mix gently until dissolved.

If using tea bags or peppermint leaves, steep in 2 cups of water separately for 30 minutes covered. Let cool. Strain out the leaves and add to the sugar solution in place of extract.

Gingerbread Soda Makes 1 gallon

- 2 1/8 cups sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/8 cup caramel malt, cracked
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 tablespoon molasses
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves
- cold carbonated water up to 1 gallon (2 2-liter bottles)

Combine sugar, water and cream of tartar, bring to a boil, simmer 20 minutes. Allow to cool. In a separate saucepan, heat 1 1/2 cups water to just before boiling. You will see small bubbles form at the base of the pan, but they shouldn't rise to the top. Turn heat to low to maintain this temperature. Add in the caramel malt and all the spices. Steep for 30 minutes covered. Let cool. Strain out the grain and spice sediment and add to the sugar solution with the molasses. Add to carbonated water and mix gently until dissolved.

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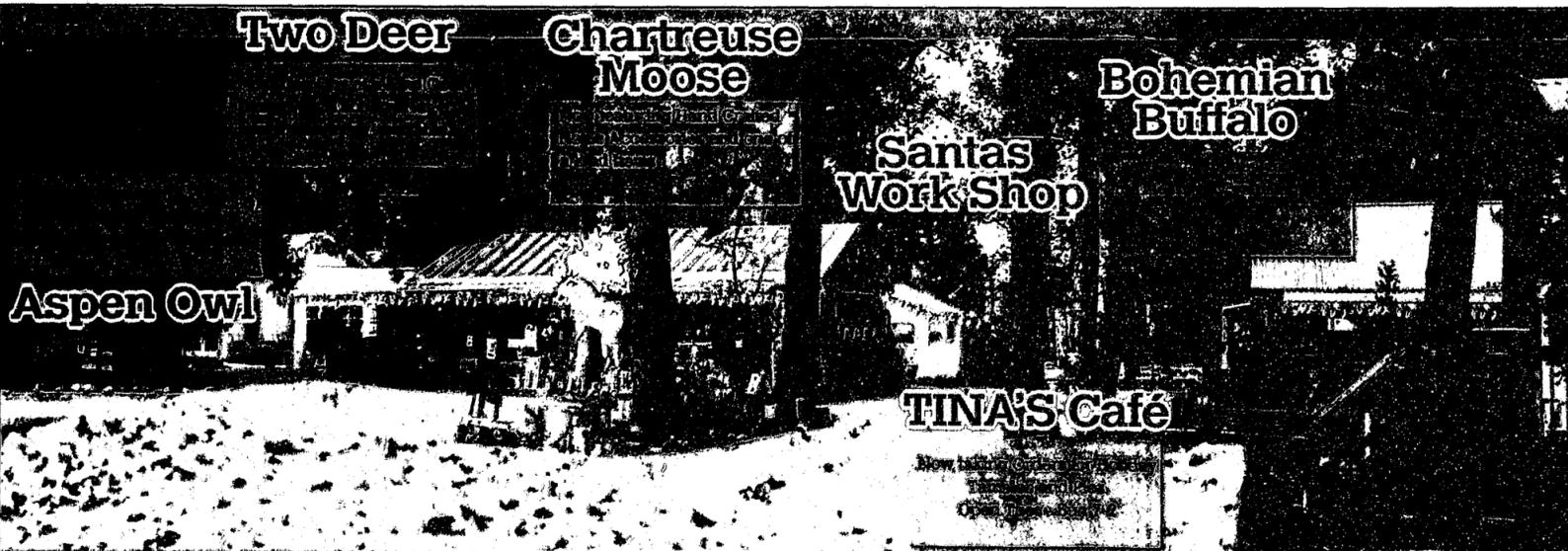
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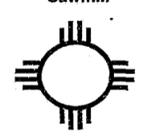
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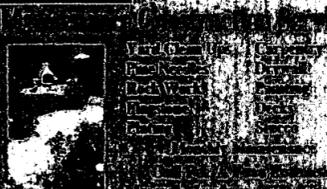
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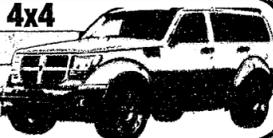
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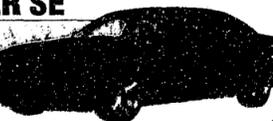
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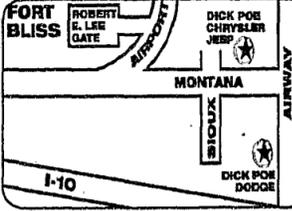


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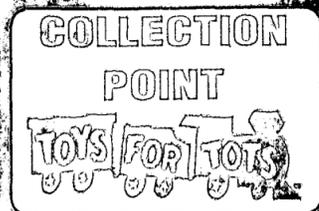


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